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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Concerned by Libyan Lockerbie Charges

Self-Restraint Urged Over Pan Am Incident

NC1711112891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League's General Secretariat has voiced its deep concern over the threats made by some Western countries against the Libyan Jamahiriyah regarding Libya's involvement in the U.S. airliner that fell over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

In a statement issued today, the General Secretariat asserts that the statement issued by the Libyan Secretariat of External Liaison demonstrated Libya's commitment to international law and its principles based on restraint from terrorist activities in international relations and refusal to expose innocent civilians to the dangers of such activities. The Libyan statement denies involvement in the U.S. airliner incident, the General Secretariat added.

The General Secretariat appealed to all parties to exercise self-restraint and not to rush in adopting measures that are bound to exacerbate tension in the Middle East at a time when international and Arab efforts are being marshalled for the sake of achieving peace in the region.

'Abd-al-Majid Rejects 'Foreign Threats'

NC1711212191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that any foreign threats directed against any Arab League member-state are rejected.

In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, 'Abd-al-Majid said he is holding Arab and international contacts to contain the current crisis between Libya and some Western states to ward off the dangers to the area. He added that he has not yet received a request from Libya to convene an emergency meeting of the Arab League to discuss these threats, but in the event such a request is received, he will convey it to all member-states.

'Sources' on Plan for Multilateral Talks in Rome

NC1711115691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have disclosed that the Middle East multilateral negotiations, which will deal with issues of the environment, water, disarmament, and development, will work out a new form for regional cooperation in the region based on a plan called Matitus devised by the EC countries similar to the Marshall Plan after World War II.

The sources said this plan calls for extending Western technology to the region's countries, in addition to assistance from international financing institutions and aid from the region's oil-rich countries in return for sharing water, opening markets, and exchanging workers among the region's countries.

The plan also deals with curbing armaments in the region, which will divert the huge financial resources that were allocated to arms exports to development.

The same sources said the multilateral negotiations will be held in the second half of December for two days in Rome instead of Moscow; the idea of holding the negotiations in Moscow was dropped due to lack of technical capacity to receive the participant delegations, which amount to about 32 countries, in addition to the media coverage.

The sources added that the negotiations will adjourn after two days until February next year until positive steps in bilateral negotiations from the Arab point of view have been made.

The sources noted that the United States was eager to make various international parties participate in the multilateral negotiations, including, in addition to the cosponsors of the conference the United States and the Soviet Union, the EC and Japan. It is expected that Pakistan, Iran, India, Turkey, and Iraq will participate at a later stage, in addition to the basic parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Arab Maghreb Union countries, and the Gulf Cooperation countries.

As for the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations, the sources expected invitations to them to be sent out in the next few days. The sources also expected that the negotiations will most likely be held in Washington or its suburbs on 28 November.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Reacts to 'Negative' Israeli Golan Decision

LD1611200791 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov. 16, SPA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO] has been following with profound indignation the negative Israeli reactions, after the first round of the Madrid conference, aimed at obstructing the peace process, said a press statement made by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Gabid.

The peace process is being conducted under the joint auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union and supported by the international community, particularly the positive response of the concerned Arab parties to the current peace efforts which are based on the international

legitimacy and on the principle of exchange of land for peace, added the statement. [sentence as received]

The recent Israeli Knesset's resolution, which was based on the false assumption that the occupied Syrian Golan Heights are an Israeli territory and as such not subject to negotiation, is a clear proof of Israel's recalcitrant policy and is, indeed, a new Israeli manoeuvre aimed at forcing the Arabs to boycott the forthcoming session of peace talks and to consequently hold them responsible for the failure of these talks.

The wise Arab stand of adherence to the international legitimacy is the right response to these defiant Israeli policies, which have already been exposed in front of the international community, especially as the U.N. Security Council has already held a similar resolution of the Israeli Knesset, in 1981, to be null and void, said the statement.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference, while denouncing the recent resolution of the Knesset, reaffirms that this resolution has no basis in law, whatsoever, and constitutes, as well, a glaring violation of the charter and the relevant resolution of the United Nations and of the principles of the international law.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference condemns all Israeli actions following the conclusion of the first round of the peace talks, and particularly the repeated acts of aggression against southern Lebanon, its continued building of settlements in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, the levelling of fabricated accusations and repeated threats made against the members of the Palestinian delegation that attended the Madrid conference.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference appeals to the international community and particularly to the United States and the Soviet Union, which are co-sponsoring the peace conference on the Middle East, to adopt appropriate measures to counter such practices and manoeuvres and to put pressure on Israel so as to force it to abide by the peace process and to favourably respond to the efforts being exerted, by the international community, aimed at establishing just, comprehensive and lasting peace that would ensure the legitimate rights of the Arabs.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Venue Unacceptable Unless Dialogue Resumed

NC1611150291 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Tunis, Nov 16 (AFP) - Palestinians would not accept a Washington venue for direct Arab-Israeli talks until the United States agrees to resume its dialogue with the PLO, a Palestinian official said Saturday.

"Before giving our acceptance, we are waiting for the U.S. response to certain questions such as the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue," Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told Al-Hurriyah daily.

The PLO's information chief was quoted as saying the Palestinians "would not go to Washington for the bilateral negotiations" until the United States agreed to end the 17-month suspension of its contacts with the organisation.

Washington broke off the dialogue in June 1990 because the PLO failed to condemn an aborted Palestinian guerrilla raid on Israeli beaches near Tel Aviv.

The Palestinians also want assurances that all the Palestinian delegates as well as advisors and aides, possibly including PLO members, would be granted U.S. entry visas.

The PLO is officially excluded from the Middle East peace process, at the insistence of Israel, but Palestinian negotiators have been taking their instructions from the organisation. [passage omitted]

INA: Bilateral Talks To Be Held in Copenhagen

JN1611192291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, 16 Nov (INA)—Informed Palestinian sources have told the INA correspondent in Amman that the bilateral talks between Arab parties and "Israel" will be held in the Danish capital of Copenhagen.

The sources said that the decision to hold the talks in Copenhagen came after the PLO made the convocation of talks in Washington conditional on the U.S. Administration resuming dialogue with it.

Al-Husayni Leaves for Consultations in Amman

TA1711094891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni crossed the Allenby Bridge this morning on his way to Jordan. Al-Husayni, accompanied by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Sami al-Kilani, and Samir 'Abdallah, left for consultations with the Jordanian delegation in Amman.

Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, says that after the discussions, which will probably end tomorrow, al-Husayni will return to East Jerusalem.

Habash Threatens PFLP Withdrawal From PLO

NC1611191291 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Exclusive" statement by Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] to MBC correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I regret to say that we have started negotiations while settlement- building continues. Therefore, it is the duty of the PLO to change its current course very quickly

and to lead the masses down the road of struggle in order to change the balance of power. I regret to say that I find it very painful that some leaders are celebrating their own defeats. Well, I could sympathize with someone who says: This is a difficult situation, a terrible situation, into which we were forced against our will, etc. But, really, to celebrate our defeats, this is a situation that I hope some leaders would reconsider. They should reconsider asking our people to toss flowers at soldiers who are desecrating our land and occupying it.

But should the PLO continue on its present course, without achieving results, and possibly even making more concessions, we, in this case, will not stop at the mere freezing [of PFLP membership], but will raise this measure to the level of withdrawal and seek the arbitration of the Palestine National Council in its 21st session.

Madrid First Step in 'Thousand-Mile Journey'

PM1511153491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Nov 91 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, by 'Abd-al-Salam Shahadah in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [Shahadah] Did you expect the warm reception when you returned to the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Agha] Actually we expected everything from our people, who started the intifadah as a sudden and extraordinary action. We are not surprised by whatever influential actions they embark on. What happened proves the people's support for the PLO, not for any members of the delegation in particular. It is also support for the correct political decision made by the PLO.

We felt when we were in Madrid, and afterward too, that we were supported by a solid foundation, that is, our great people.

[Shahadah] It was noted that after their return members of the delegation warned against "over-optimism." What does that imply?

[Al-Agha] We have taken the first step in a thousand-mile journey. It is a great and difficult task, because we know our enemy and its attempts to retain everything and to make no concessions. So we are in involved a political battle no less substantial than the previous battles. It requires a strong internal front and the continuation of the people's struggle. This is what we are promising people. We promise them that we will be equal to the responsibility and faithful to the people, in order to regain our rights, which the enemy will not offer us on a silver platter. So there is a long way to go, both for the people and for the negotiators.

[Shahadah] In view of the difficulties expected on this long road, how would you describe the present situation?

[Al-Agha] We will try to win over world public opinion as a foundation for subsequent steps. The next stage of negotiations requires steadfastness and no relinquishment of our rights or bargaining over them. It also requires that world states, and especially those sponsoring the conference, fulfill their promises to provide support to secure a lasting and just settlement to the Palestinian issue—a settlement that enshrines legitimate rights, including, first and foremost, an end to the occupation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. As I said, there is now a good foundation, since the EC has promised to support our position and there is complete coordination between us and the Arab states, both between delegations and between political leaderships. There are also the states sponsoring the conference. In fact the Soviet delegation met with us and supported us, promising to continue to support our position in every way it can. As for the United States, even though its position did meet our demands, it has promised that an end to the occupation and an exchange of land for peace would be the natural outcome of the conference.

[Shahadah] Did you, the Palestinian delegation, obtain diplomatic immunity, and do you plan to exploit it to bolster the peace march?

[Al-Agha] On paper we were treated as diplomats, but there is now no immunity in the proper sense. We asked the states sponsoring the conference, and especially the United States, that members of the delegation be granted special status under the occupation, and they agreed on that with the Israeli authorities. We also asked the United Nations that we be granted special status. Be that as it may, we will try to act on an equal footing with the occupation. The days ahead will prove that our actions will be in accordance with that approach. We hope to exploit the immunity issue in order to deliver lectures to and hold open seminars for our masses and people to explain to them the truth of what is happening and in order to acquaint them fully with developments and what should be done so that they can constitute the principal support for the negotiating delegation. We hope that such seminars will be the beginning of a political trend among citizens in the occupied land in support of the peace march.

[Shahadah] According to the media, Israeli leaders say that they will prevent any demonstrations or seminars, even if they are in support of peace. What is to be done?

[Al-Agha] We will not request permission from the occupation authorities to hold seminars. We will meet with people, and no one will be able to prevent us from meeting with our people. If they want to prevent us from doing so, let them do so and show the world their true intentions toward peace. We will meet with our people and will embarrass Israel.

[Shahadah] What about the political committees announced in Jerusalem on the delegation's return from Jordan, which are intended to support the negotiators?

[Al-Agha] I learned about this from the press and other media. I have heard that brothers in the occupied

territories have formed these committees to support our people, our peace march, and the negotiating delegation. We hope that that will have a positive and effective role in favor of the cause.

Qaddumi Denounces Israeli Decision on Golan

JN1611191391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Report" carried within "Spotlight on the News" feature; read by Rabhi Ahmad]

[Excerpts] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has denounced the Zionist Knesset's decision to consider the Golan Heights, occupied by the Zionist forces in 1967, a territory not subject to negotiations. He said that this decision shows the Zionist entity's desire to obstruct the peace efforts.

In a statement reported today by the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, Qaddumi said that the decision adopted recently by the Zionist Knesset is provocative and reflects the Israeli Government's intransigence in its expansionist policy and avoidance of peace. He noted that the insistence on such a Zionist expansionist policy is at odds with the international legitimacy on which the peace process is based. He stressed the need for the withdrawal of Zionist troops from all occupied Arab territories, the stopping of Zionist settlement activities, and the rejection of any separate agreement. [passage omitted]

The Zionist Knesset on Monday adopted a resolution affirming that the Golan Heights is not subject to negotiations and that it constitutes an inseparable part of Israel and an important element for its security. [passage omitted]

Ruling Termed 'Provocative'

JN1611171691 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Announcer-read "text" of statement issued on 15 November by PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi to PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY-WAFA, reacting to Israeli Knesset decision regarding Golan Heights; place not given]

[Text] The Israeli Knesset decision is a provocative one, symptomatic of the extent of the wrongheadedness of the Israeli Government, its adherence to expansionist policies, its abhorrence of peace, and its determination to place obstacles in the path of the Middle East peace conference. Insistence on such annexationist policies is at odds with the international legitimacy underlying the principles of the peace initiative.

The PLO stands by sisterly Syria's endeavors to promote a united Arab front in the interest of obtaining sufficient guarantees seeking the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; namely, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territory and the cessation of Israeli settlement activity there. The PLO also takes Syria's side in rejecting unilateral agreements.

Group Claims Responsibility for Negev Operation

JN1711081791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization calling itself the Forces of the Al-Aqsa and the Guards of the Holy Sepulchre Church [quwwat al-aqsa wa hurras kanisat al-qiyamah] disclosed in a statement it distributed yesterday the identities of the four Palestinians who were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the western Negev last Monday. At the time, an Israeli army spokesman announced that the Israeli forces killed four members of a group hostile to Israel in the western Negev, and that the Israelis sustained no casualties.

The statement by the organization said that one of its groups attacked a group of Israeli officers and soldiers in the region, that a fierce battle took place and lasted more than 3 hours, during which the Israelis sustained losses in life and equipment, and the four fighters were killed—two from Ramallah and the others from Gaza.

Cairo denied that the group had infiltrated from Egyptian territories.

Algeria

Movement for Democracy To Participate in Elections

LD1511052191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] A statement by the Movement for Democracy in Algeria received by this radio station this morning says that despite the shortcomings of the electoral law and the division of electoral constituencies, the lack of material and financial equality, and the inadequacy of the preparatory period, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria will participate in the upcoming legislative elections as a preliminary step toward early presidential elections. The movement points out that it is represented by a majority of governorates.

Bendjedid Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD1411174891 Algiers APS in English 1041 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Algiers, Nov 14 (APS)—The Council of Ministers met here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid. The head of government presented an account on the government's activities since the last Council of Ministers.

While intervening following this account, the head of state encouraged the government to carry on, deepen and extend dialogue and concertation [as received] that involve all partners at the examination of questions concerning the nation.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers examined and approved the draft bill on 1992 national plan. The latter falls within the framework of the carrying on of economic and social reforms initiated these last years in order to promote a modern and efficient economy managed by the rules of the market and that organizes solidarities necessary to the translation of social justice.

In his intervention, the head of state called on the government to exert all efforts to induce economy to take up with growth and particularly insisted on rapidly setting up mechanisms aimed at a better protection of disadvantaged strata's purchasing power.

In this regard, he exhorted the government to pay a particular attention to the agricultural sector by lifting all constraints that lie heavy on farmers and gather all conditions for lands rehabilitation, particularly in the south of Algeria.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers examined and approved draft amendments relating to laws:

—relative to the settlement of labor individual disputes.

—relative to the prevention and the settlement of labour's collective disputes and the exercise of the right to strike.

—relative to the modes of the exercise of the trade union right.

—relative to relations of labour.

"These amendments are aimed at ensuring a better taking in charge of labour's relations in order to clarify the rules of protection of workers and correct insufficiencies that appeared at the implementation of these laws. [no end quotation marks as received]

Furthermore, the Council of Ministers examined the draft amendments of the code of commerce. "These amendments are aimed at ensuring a bigger fluidity and a better transparence in economic transactions. The Council of Ministers examined and approved a draft text relating to the creation of a social and economic council and the draft bill relating to real estate promotion.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers approved two loan agreements concluded with the African Bank of Development and the African Fund of Development intended for the financing of a programme reinforcing national capabilities in terms of technical education.

Eventually, the Council of Ministers listened to an expose of the minister of internal affairs and local communities on the preparation of legislative elections. The council also stressed the importance of the participation of political associations and independent candidates in this fist stage of the electoral process.

Egypt

U.S. Cautioned Against Military Response to Libya

Government Sends 'Urgent' Memo

JN1511183191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egypt has sent an urgent memorandum to the U.S. Administration warning it against the consequences of undertaking any military aggression against Libya and of the perils that this may bring to security and stability in the Middle East. The Egyptian memorandum calls for exercising self-restraint and settling all problems through peaceful means.

Well-informed Egyptian sources told our radio that the Egyptian memorandum was sent at noon today through diplomatic channels following Egyptian-Libyan contacts during which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah affirmed its categorical denial of having anything to do with the Pan Am incident. A responsible source at the Libyan followup [al mutaba'ah] office in Cairo said that the U.S. and British accusations are groundless. They are mere slander and seek to justify a military action against Libya to punish it for its stands in support of legitimate Arab rights and for its rejection of U.S.-Israeli hegemony, the source added.

The Egyptian sources said that President Mubarak might pay an urgent visit to Libya to discuss the current developments with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as well as ways to prevent a new military explosion in the region. A state of caution, expectation, and indignation prevails in the Egyptian streets as everyone awaits what developments the current crisis will produce.

Mubarak: Libya Strike Would 'Torpedo' Peace Talks

JN1711180491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has said that dealing any military blow to Libya would torpedo the peace conference and the expected talks between the Arabs and Israel. Well-informed Egyptian sources told our radio that the Egyptian president affirmed, during a telephone conversation with President George Bush in the past few hours, that the Arabs will not be able to trust U.S. intentions or its ability to achieve a comprehensive peace if it undertakes such a move.

Mubarak noted that Libya is now a state that calls for achieving stability and condemns terrorism throughout the world. The Egyptian president called for vigilance and accuracy in leveling accusations against Libya vis-a-vis its responsibility for blowing up the Pan Am airliner. He noted that the clues do not provide any conclusive evidence of any Libyan responsibility for this incident.

It is already known in Cairo that the British, French, and Italian Governments have all asked Egypt to urge Libya to hand over the suspects in this incident for trial. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Consults With Libya on Charges

NC1711180291 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, Nov 17 (AFP)—Arab states stood by Libya Sunday and called for restraint as the West considered ways to retaliate against Tripoli for its alleged role in blowing up an airliner.

The Arab League based here said in a statement that it believed Libya had not been responsible for blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, and urged "restraint from all parties concerned."

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has consulted with Libya at the "highest level" since U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Robert Pelletreau Wednesday handed Egypt a message with "proof" of Libya's role in the bombing, a reliable source said.

The consultations between Egypt and Libya could lead to a meeting late Sunday between Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in either country, the reliable source said. [passage omitted]

The message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, transmitted via Pelletreau, stressed Washington's "intention to punish Libya," the reliable source said.

Mubarak Said Mediating Crisis

NC1811085491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0829 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Nov (MENA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-FAJR AL- JADID reports that President Husni Mubarak has succeeded in defusing the Libyan-Western crisis by ruling out military options. Citing informed sources in Cairo, the paper said that Egypt will continue its mediation to solve the crisis by legal means and the picture will become clear in the next few days. The paper says that this development is considered a splendid success for the calm diplomacy President Mubarak has been pursuing since the crisis erupted.

Open Letter Warns Bush Not To Strike

NC1611225691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari has addressed an open letter to U.S. President George Bush warning the U.S. Administration not to strike militarily against Libya in retaliation for its reported responsibility for the bombing of the civilian airliner in 1988. Al-Ansari points out the numerous adverse effects that such a step would have on this region, on the new international climate, and the United States' relationship with its friends in the Arab world.

In his open letter which will be published in AL-JUMHURIYAH tomorrow, the writer asks: With what criteria is the U.S. Administration dealing with this issue? Are they the criteria of the cold war years with their divisions, conflicts, and chaos, or the criteria of a new world era that is now taking its first steps on the basis of the rules of international legitimacy?

The writer says he believes that it is unacceptable to apply the rules and principles of a new law to the past and that one cannot pass judgment retroactively using a law that was not yet in existence when the crime was committed. He notes that this does not mean that Libya's guilt has been proven or that it was Libya who planned this incident.

He continues: Whether the accusation is proved or disproved, we are living in a new age and in new circumstances, and are governed by new international rules and relationships.

As part of his comment on the U.S. threats against Libya, al-Ansari explains that he does not mean that "crimes of violence and terrorism" were legitimate in the past and have now been prohibited. He asserts that terrorism and violence, particularly against innocent people, are a

criminal sin at any time and place, but this sinfulness becomes deeper when it is organized and perpetrated by countries and systems.

He continues: The question is, who should take whom to task? Who among us is without sin, let him cast the first stone.

The writer reminds U.S. President George Bush of the numerous crimes that some countries committed against civilian aircraft and adds that these crimes were not accidental but premeditated.

The writer gives as an example the attack on the Iranian civilian airliner over the Gulf in the final months of the Iraq-Iran war, the Egyptian civilian plane which Israel downed over Sinai, and the Korean airliner destroyed by the USSR.

The writer gives other examples of attacks on civilian planes. He also refers to the mining of Nicaragua's shores and the consequences of the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam via Cambodia, which led to the killing of 4 million Cambodians in return for saving the lives of 75,000 U.S. troops.

Al-Ansari concludes from these examples that the U.S. conflict with the USSR during the cold war years created an international order of chaos, with armaments, terrorism, killing, hijacking, hostage-taking, and the violation of everything. He says that this chaotic international order went further when it regulated and recognized [word indistinct] of hijacking and hostage-taking and entered into official negotiations and bargaining with hostage-takers and their agents.

The writer asks: Is it right after all these crimes and events to speak of "punishment, reprisal, convention, and law" in an age in which some major countries participated in breaking the conventions and the laws? He continues, saying that when the major powers present an example, smaller countries cannot be blamed for doing the same because their games imitate the example. He says: "The Kuwaiti occupation game merely imitated the big powers."

Al-Ansari calls on the U.S. President to forget the past, maintain the good image which he has created for himself and his country in the region, and devote his efforts to establishing a new world order. He warns against attacking Libya, whether this is carried out by an individual U.S. action or under a U.S.-European or international umbrella. He asserts that attacking Arab Libya will not punish al-Qadhdhafi, but rather the Arab friends of the United States more than it will its enemies.

On the same issue, Samir Rajab, chief editor of AL-MASA' newspaper, wrote in his daily column in AL-JUMHURIYAH: With our full appreciation of the current U.S. Administration and our personal admiration for President Bush's just stands, we will not at all accept Washington's turning into a "calumnious" police officer who abuses his authority to the greatest extent.

The writer asserts that such conduct is unacceptable by any criterion because it will lead to more terrorist operations, rather than the opposite. He notes that the world has changed and the policies of countries have changed. Consequently, one should not take any party to task retroactively at a time when difficult attempts are being made to repair Washington's relations with some Arab capitals, which have been badly damaged over the past years.

The writer advises the U.S. Administration to go back to the 19 May 1991 statement by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, who said that "Libya has never supported terrorism, but rather rejects, condemns, and opposes it because if it supports it today, it might become its victim tomorrow, and indeed has been a victim of such terrorism."

In conclusion, the writer asserts that such a statement is sufficient to close all past files. He says that this is 100 times better than allowing the Middle East sky again to be unnecessarily overcast. The Americans also can do without such new clouds, he says.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Talks

PM151115391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Yahyawi] What is your assessment of the Madrid conference?

[Musa] The Madrid conference was not a bad start to the peace process. In our capacity as a state participating in the process of promoting a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, we have achieved a good result in the presence of all parties, especially the Palestinian, Syrian, and Israeli parties. That means that all the parties concerned were at the conference, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Europe, in addition to the conference sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union. That is what gave the conference great importance as a springboard for the peace process. Another factor that contributed to the success of the conference was that each party was given an equal chance to submit and explain its position and views and its own concept of the conference objectives. You must have noticed that the Palestinian delegation was given the same time as the other delegations. That was a significant achievement.

After the conference's first session, bilateral talks began with the direct participation of all the parties concerned. That opened the door to negotiations. We have not yet started discussion of the details of the peace process. The talks in Madrid focused on the presentation of the main positions of all parties. Then talks in the bilateral committees dealt with procedural matters, the mechanism and continuation of the meetings. At any rate, I assess what happened as an important addition to the peace process.

[Al-Yahyawi] Do you believe that the problem of the venue for the next round of negotiations can be solved?

[Musa] I believe that problem has been overcome in the sense that the committees will not meet in the region, as requested by Israel, nor will they meet in Madrid. As a compromise, they will meet in another capital, maybe in Washington, most probably. The issue of the venue, therefore, is no longer a problem. The time has also been agreed. It will be within one week, that is, at the beginning of the third week in November. That is when the bilateral meetings are supposed to be resumed.

[Al-Yahyawi] Do you believe that the fact that Israel continues to build settlements in the occupied territories denotes any Israeli seriousness about peace?

[Musa] Of course not. That does not serve peace at all. The continued building of settlements disturbs the peace process. That is why it was condemned by Egypt when announced by Israel. I believe that the continued building of settlements throughout the occupied territories, Syrian or Palestinian, is a very serious matter because it runs contrary to peace intentions and to the peace process itself.

[Al-Yahyawi] Judging by your experience in negotiating with Israel, do you believe Israel could seek peace without returning the territory?

[Musa] That, of course, is impossible because the land-for-peace principle has already been decided. There can be no gratis peace given as a gift to Israel or the Arabs. There must be mutual commitments. As you have seen in Madrid, the Egyptian position is this: There is no need to play with words. If some use the argument of peace in return for peace, then we would take the matter to its origin and say rights in return for rights, commitment for commitment, and security for security. In other words, it must be a balanced settlement that would give the Arabs their rights and Israel its rights in accordance with Resolution 242.

[Al-Yahyawi] After the coordination in Damascus among the encircling states, what are the differences between the Arab side and the Israeli side in the interpretation of Resolution 242?

[Musa] On the Arab side, of course, there are no differences over the interpretation of that resolution. The Israeli side says that it does not mean land for peace, or that it means part of the territory at the expense of the rest of it. That is not the accepted interpretation. I believe that what the Israelis are saying is part of their negotiating posture, an initial position. The government of a country that is a UN member and is recognized by many states cannot reject the international documented interpretation of Resolution 242 stipulating that Israel withdraw from the territories it occupied by military force in 1967 on the Jordanian, Syrian, and Egyptian fronts. Therefore, there should be withdrawal from the occupied territories and negotiations on security arrangements relating to them. Withdrawal will be part of the negotiations on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. The issue of withdrawal must be the first item of the talks agenda.

[Al-Yahyawi] What do you think of Israeli calls for the creation of an atmosphere of trust before discussion of withdrawal and territory, claiming that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not a conflict over territory?

[Musa] In his speech the Israeli prime minister only said that he did not favor concentrating on that point, but he did not rule out the principle. We believe that there should be concentration on the issue of territory and withdrawal from the occupied territories. In other words, it is not an absolute Israeli refusal but rather a rearrangement of priorities and the initiation of negotiations from angles different from those desired by the Arab sides. Still, I believe it will be easy to resolve this matter in the early sessions and rounds of the negotiations.

[Al-Yahyawi] Do you personally believe that all parties concerned are serious about the peace process, or did some parties go to Madrid to escape by running forward?

[Musa] I believe that all parties are serious. The international community will not allow any party to be otherwise.

[Al-Yahyawi] Meaning that Israel is serious about the peace process this time?

[Musa] I believe that Israel has now joined the peace process and that the international community will not allow it or anyone else not to be serious about it, because the loss would be massive for the party which subverts the process. That is because this is an important opportunity, perhaps the last opportunity for settling this conflict. Now the world, the sponsoring and participating states, the parties concerned, and observers all believe that the time has come for a settlement and that there is no other choice; otherwise, the Middle East would enter an era of great anarchy that would be in nobody's interest. That is why I believe that all parties will try to achieve a settlement, each party from its own angle. What is important at present is to arrive at a common ground that would make possible effective, reasonable, and sensible negotiations, without ruling out some hard-line positions at the start because we must not forget that this is a negotiating process. We will have to deal with numerous negotiating positions and ease them down so as to push the wheel forward and complete the process as soon as possible.

[Al-Yahyawi] In your view, how long will the negotiations last before peace agreements are concluded?

[Musa] We ask: How long will the negotiations take to achieve success or the beginning of success? I believe that all matters must become clear within one year. If, at the beginning of that year, we begin to find the sound course through acceptance of the land-for-peace principle, and if we begin to negotiate about withdrawal and about a transitional period in the occupied Palestinian territory, then we will have followed the right path. It may take

longer than that. What is important is that in the first year the negotiations enter the right channel. That would be a great success. It took us, in Egypt, a long time to achieve a peace treaty after the great momentum created by President Anwar al-Sadat's initiative. That is why I believe we should not be hasty or in a hurry, but that does not mean that we should wait forever. There should be a reasonable time span which should not be exceeded. We cannot month after month keep talking about procedures, engaging in something like a dialogue of the deaf. At some point there must be an agreement, or a decision that the matter was futile. In the meantime, the necessary pressures and interventions should take place to put the parties concerned on the right track.

Mubarak, al-Asad To Review Development of Talks

NC0911075491 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0712 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The AKHBAR AL-YAWM weekly today cites a responsible source as saying that President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will meet soon to review developments on the international peace conference.

The source added that the multilateral talks on the Middle East peace process would start at the end of November and beginning of December and that Egypt would participate in the bilateral talks at a later stage, particularly in the talks on autonomy for the Palestinians. The paper says that the talks are likely to be held either in the U.S. capital or in nearby Williamsburg, Virginia, or in one of the Mediterranean countries.

Differences Said To Endanger Talks

NC1511182691 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Nov 91 pp 1,11

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn and Ashraf Khalil]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed to AL-SHA'B that the Gulf countries are coming under U.S. pressure to reject any independent Arab military presence in the region.

The sources assert that these pressures cast shadows on the preparatory meetings of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories, which began yesterday. No progress was made during the meeting in connection with setting up joint military forces and the size of these troops, their armament, or points of deployment.

Speaking to AL-SHA'B, diplomatic sources traced the obstacles hindering the implementation of the Damascus Declaration back to U.S. contacts with the Gulf countries, which warned them against allowing an Arab military presence that would impose certain restrictions on these countries.

'Arafat's visit to Egypt last week sought to hold a five-party summit meeting of the Arab frontline states prior to the resumption of bilateral and multilateral negotiations, since the restrictions imposed individually on Arab delegations to the Madrid conference made it difficult for these delegations to coordinate their stands. 'Arafat's request, however, has been rejected.

Palestinian sources expressed fears to AL-SHA'B that the United States may pressure Arab delegations to bilateral negotiations, which will be held in Washington, thus preventing each Arab delegation from learning about what goes on during the meetings between Israeli and other Arab delegations.

Arab sources have asserted the existence of sharp differences between the Egyptian and Syrian sides that threaten the continuation of negotiations. Syria, for its part, refuses to engage in the third phase of negotiations—the multilateral phase—making its participation in this phase contingent upon the achievement of tangible and positive progress during bilateral negotiations. Egypt, on the other hand, adopts the U.S. and Zionist viewpoint, which is that the two stages should begin simultaneously.

In this respect, Syria expressed its resentment of the Egyptian stand and threatened to withdraw from the negotiations. But the Americans hinted—through Egypt—at the possibility of taking Syria off the list of terrorist states and retracting earlier accusations that Syria fosters terrorism, in return for its continued participation in the negotiations.

Diplomatic sources describe the U.S. decision to hold bilateral talks in Washington and multilateral talks in Moscow as a practical separation between the Arab-Israeli conflict on the one hand and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the other. Under such a decision, and with the ongoing failure to hold a frontline summit, it will be impossible to link Arab and Palestinian issues.

The sources warn that holding peace talks according to that scenario is certain to cause the talks to proceed toward a bilateral solution with Israel that ignores the core of the issue; namely, the Palestinian cause and Jerusalem.

With the date determined for the multilateral negotiations—which will discuss cooperation, water, and armament in the region—Egypt once again presented its initiative to remove all nulcear weapons from the Middle East, which U.S. pressure has managed to bury in the UN archives.

Diplomatic sources told AL-SHA'B that chances for the success of the Egyptian initiative under the present circumstances are meek, in view of the Israeli rejection and the U.S. disregard for it, particularly since it differs basically with Bush's initiative, which favors granting Israel exclusive armament rights.

In this context, the U.S. Administration made an offer to Arab frontline states. It links Israeli regional concessions favoring frontline states with concessions to Israel's exclusive rights to possess nuclear weapons.

In another development, Palestinian efforts have failed to persuade Egypt of the need to adopt a united Arab stand to force Israel to halt its settlement policy in the occupied territories.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo from Amman late Sunday evening, after 'Arafat's departure, in a final attempt to convince the Egyptian leadership of the need to hold a summit meeting of the Arab states concerned with the conflict. The visit came in the wake of an agreement to hold a Palestinian-Syrian-Jordanian summit meeting to emphasize their rejection of any unilateral agreements with the Zionist side.

Delegate Rules Out Separate Deals With Israel

NC0911055891 Paris AFP in English 2156 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Tert] Cairo, Nov 7 (AFP)—Arabs in the Middle East peace process have agreed to reject any separate peace accords with Israel even if their one-on-one talks with Israel move at different paces, an Egyptian delegate to the Madrid conference said Friday.

Egyptian delegate Lutfi al-Khuli told AFP that although the Arabs held different views on procedural issues, they agreed on three basic points:

—No Arab party will sign a deal with Israel before the end of negotiations between Israel and the other parties.

—Any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must include a solution to the East Jerusalem issue, a halt to settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, and Israel's withdrawal from Arab land occupied since 1967.

—The multilateral negotiations on regional problems such as arms control and economic development will depend on progress at the bilateral talks between Israel and Lebanon, Israel and Syria, Israel and Jordan, and Israel and the Palestinians.

Al-Baz—Israeli Nuclear Power 'Serious Matter'

NC1511150891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 15 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that sitting at the negotiating table with Israel does not mean a prior relinquishment of any cause.

Speaking here last night before members of the Association of Science College Graduates in Alexandria, al-Baz stressed that the Palestinians made considerable gains in Madrid by showing the true image of the Palestinians and their legitimate cause based on UN resolutions to the whole world. He noted that by seeking peace and accepting the principle of negotiations to restore Palestinian rights, the Palestinians have proven that they are not ones to miss opportunities, that they decisively answered all counter-propaganda claiming that they want to destroy Israel, and that they silenced those who claim Egypt is negotiating on their behalf.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the issue, as shown by the way it was presented to the world, is a just cause, and there is no need for concern or to cast doubts on the negotiators, who had been chosen with the highest qualifications to explain the rights, put forward arguments, and present supporting evidence. He added: There is also no need to fear the principle of peace and raise storms of mistrust and suspicion, causing the assumption that they are traitors. He noted that the element of fear could arise when the negotiations actually end up with something we feel could be harmful to Arab and Palestinian rights. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz added that Egypt stopped Israel from expanding by signing the peace treaty and that it succeeded in restoring its territories through peace. He noted that Tabah was the best example of Egypt's negotiating capability, will, wisdom, and the experience and efficiency of the Egyptian negotiators and experts who succeeded in regaining it.

Dr. al-Baz then spoke about the Arab strategy in the face of the world changes. He said that in a world heading for peace, Egypt views Israel's possession of nuclear weapons as a serious matter. He added: The world is now heading toward eliminating and reducing weapons of mass destruction, and Israel cannot be an exception to this. Also, he added, there could be no ban on specific weapons in the Middle East while Israel maintains this advantage, because this will upset the balance of power in the region and result in giving the Israeli decision-maker an element of strength to formulate his decisions and hold more tightly to his options in the face of the Arab states. He noted that peace requires the elimination of Israel's nuclear weapons, something on which the major states must concentrate since they were the ones to help Israel gain the advantage of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Baz noted that differences still exist between Iran and the Arab states, and this situation must be overcome in phases. He pointed out that Iran is an Islamic country adjacent to us and our relations with it must be neighborly.

The meeting was attended by Alexandria Governor Isma'il al-Jawsaqi, Alexandria University Rector Dr. Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd-al-Fattah, People's Assembly and Consultative Council members in Alexandria, key political and executive figures, and Arab consuls in Alexandria.

Cabinet Reviews Madrid Peace Talks Outcome

NC1711101991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—The Council of Ministers held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this morning. The Council is to discuss the government's measures to deal with various issus of the national work in light of the directives contained in President Husni Mubarak's speech at the opening of the parliamentary session before the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

The cabinet also reviewed the foreign minister's report on the outcome of the first round of the Madrid peace conference and the interior minister's report on security and the domestic situation.

Palestinian Envoy to Cairo on Bush Statements

NC1711142891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Palestinian ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal. Kamal said that they discussed the outcome of the first stage of the peace conference in Madrid and consultations concerning future bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Sa'id Kamal said that Egypt plays a major role in supporting the Palestinian position. Commenting on yesterday's remarks by U.S. President George Bush, Sa'id Kamal said: What was particularly remarkable was that the U.S. President noted that the continuation of the peace process coincides with U.S. interests in the Middle East. Sa'id Kamal stated that what the U.S. President said about the exchange of land for peace and the implementation of UN resolutions proves the United States' serious intentions to seek a solution to the Middle East problem and eliminate all the obstacles facing the peace process. Sa'id Kamal said that the PLO has so far cooperated with peace efforts.

Paper Denounces Israeli Stance on Golan Heights

NC1411094191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces the Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the Syrian Golan Heights non-negotiable and an integral part of Israel. It says that by so doing Israel has given "open leave" to the peace conference that began in Madrid two weeks ago, closing its doors with "lock and key."

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR wonders if there has ever been such disregard for international order, law, and principles, and whether the world has ever witnessed such disdain for the world community and UN and UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper asks: If the United States and other major powers accept Israel's bizarre stance, disregarding and refusing to implement Security Council resolutions that it does not like, why then did Washington rush to show such unusual zeal in calling on all its allies to join a huge military force in the Gulf to compel Iraq to implement the Security Council's resolution on withdrawal from Kuwait?

AL-AKHBAR believes that U.S. President George Bush, the other UN Security Council members, and the EC countries will not allow such flagrantly biased treatment. If they accept it—we hope they do not—they will be driving the "first nail" into the UN's coffin so that it meets the same fate as its predecessor, the League of Nations.

U.S. Reaction to Israeli 'Provocations' Viewed

NC1811074591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has warned against the escalation of Israeli provocations of Syria, noting in this respect the Israeli Knesset decision on the Golan Heights and the aggression against southern Lebanon. In its editorial today, the paper warned of the gravity of the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon. It said that Israel is aiming to put military pressure on the security zone to the point of possible military confrontation with the Syrian forces, while demanding that they withdraw from Lebanon on the pretext that they constitute an "occupation" that hinders Lebanon from reaching peace with Israel.

AL-AHRAM noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accompanied the Knesset decision on the Golan Heights with a declaration that Israel will not give up the occupied land, will not stop building settlements, and will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state. The paper noted that although these statements are not new and Shamir has declared them on more than one occasion, they now assume new significance because they are made in light of the Knesset decision and prior to the bilateral negotiations with the Arab parties.

In conclusion, Al-AHRAM said that these signs show that Shamir is planning something to boost his standing, which began to fall when the United States stressed the need for Shamir to comply with the peaceful line and confidence-building measures it dictates. The paper wondered if the world, particularly Arabs, and especially the United States, will just keep waiting and not foil Shamir's new "initiative" in advance.

Defense Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

NC0811053891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi returned to Cairo from Washington tonight following a week-long visit to the United States.

He said his talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and other senior officials dealt with military cooperation and other military issues, such as armament and security, that are of interest to Egypt and the Middle East. He said they also discussed matters of concern to both Egypt and the United States.

Gen. Tantawi added that during his stay in the United States he visited several military installations to view new developments in conventional arms and the prospects of benefiting from these developments by upgrading Egypt's

military industry. He said he also viewed modern methods of training using sophisticated equipment. [passage omitted]

Suspected Spy for Israel To Face Military Trial

NC1511172991 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] The security agencies in mid-October arrested a young Egyptian man on charges of spying for Israel. George Habib, 23, was arrested by security personnel near the Zionist consulate in Alexandria. The suspect, who is a student at the Anglican College of Theology and owns a watch shop in Damanhur City, admitted during the interrogations that he had conveyed information on the activities of political parties and forces as well as popular organizations in Egypt to the Israeli consulate in Alexandria. He was referred to the military prosecution—Supreme State Security Case No. 486—before facing a military trial.

Columnist Lashes Out at al-Qadhdhafi's Policies

NC1511171291 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 18

["Stands" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] By God, I do not understand Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and I do not know his opinion on peace or war. I have no idea how he could have an opinion on war, when he has never attempted it, or on peace, when he does not know it.

What does Col. al-Qadhdafi want? He is the one who accused all Arabs, beginning with Anwar al-Sadat and including even Hafiz al-Asad and 'Arafat, of treason. He accused al-Sadat of treason because he was victorious in war and used it to make peace, al-Asad because he wants to liberate the Golan, and 'Arafat because he wants to restore the land of Palestine. So what is the crime?

Can he himself fight, and has he ever fought? Has he ever paid the combatants a single penny? Col. al-Qadhdhafi is absolutely the most tight-fisted among Arab leaders. He has not paid a single penny to anyone, and if he did, he made a fuss about it. So, he does not pay, and no one asks about it. Meanwhile, there are Arab leaders who do not boast about what they give out, out of respect for themselves and in deference to the others' difficulties.

Al-Qadhdhafi—and his lackey 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud—insults the Arabs when he is sedate and insults the Americans when he is elated. So in all situations he is accusing the entire earth's population of treason. As for the Libyan theory, there is nothing to it. What it is all about, no one knows, and especially not 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. When we met him, Jallud told us that all the common people in Egypt are behind Saddam Husayn. I asked him if he is talking about the Egyptians in Egypt or in Iraq. He was bold enough to tell us about Egypt and to give us advice. It is his right to do so, but in the meantime, it is our right to ask what political qualifications and military experiences he has, and how he acquired them during the nights of frolic in all those hotels around the globe.

Many in Libya must learn about shame and must realize their true stature in this world. Their real problem is the money running under their feet, and that is why they think with their feet. Their ideas are like dust that needs constantly to be swept away. Can anyone name me a single Libyan stand that serves an Arab cause or that helped promote amity, friendship, neighborliness, or peace? As for the words and speeches, they are so many and so long. But when it comes to the things that benefit people here or there, there is nothing!

Sudan Said Trying To Set Up Fundamentalist Libya

NC1511161591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 9

[Exclusive report from "The Brothers" page]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Khartoum—When [Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan] al-Bashir and the delegation accompanying him set foot inside Libyan territory last week, the Libyan leadership had already acquired detailed information on the continuous meetings between Hasan al-Turabi and his group on the one hand, and some members of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood—Fayiz Muhammad Jum'ah, 'Ali Ramadan Abu-Za'luk, and Kamal al-Shami—on the other. Through its own sources, the Libyan leadership learned for certain that these people also have met with Mahdi Ibrahim, the official in charge of foreign relations in al-Turabi's group, and Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, a prominent leader of the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood. The Libyan leadership also learned that some of these meetings were held in the United States and another Sudan-neighboring state, and that an agreement had been reached between al-Turabi's group and the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood members to coordinate their activities and task al-Turabi's group with securing contact between the Libyan brotherhood members inside the country and their followers abroad, with the ultimate goal of replacing the current Libyan leadership with a fundamentalist one.

The said agreement provides for the training of fundamentalist Libyans by the al-Turabi group in military camps in the (Quz Rajab) area in eastern Sudan.

The Libyan leadership finally concluded that the al-Turabi group's apparent alliance with it, and its boasting through slogans of unity, integration, and popular committees and congresses, was merely a tactic on al-Turabi's part to control Libya. This was admitted by Mahdi Ibrahim, who said during his meeting with Libyan fundamentalists that the policy they pursue with Libya is tactical and that it aims to protect the Muslim Brotherhood members in Libya against the injustice of al-Qadhdhafi's authorities.

The verified, detailed information alarmed the Libyan leadership. Therefore, when the Sudanese delegation arrived in Libya, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did not receive them, contrary to the tradition, and they were received by Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir. Moreover, the colonel refused to meet with al-Bashir and his delegation, who met only with 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud and Abu-Bakr Yunus. Libyan television carried no reports or pictures of the meeting, completely ignoring the visit.

According to reliable sources, the meeting between the Libyan and Sudanese delegations was stormy and Jallud launched a sharp and fierce attack against the delegation and al-Turabi's group, describing them as "people who take religion as a trade."

Al-Bashir went to Libya with several demands from his military government, primarily the renewal of bilateral oil agreements, which the Libyan leadership rejected. [passage omitted]

Arab diplomatic sources say the Libyan leadership has given the Sudanese Government an ultimatum to change its positions and end the al-Turabi group's practices inside and outside Sudan by the end of this year. Al-Turabi has been launching a campaign against the Libyan leadership and its attempts to reconcile Sudanese parties, as well as its mediation between Egypt and Sudan.

Al-Turabi has sought to ruin this mediation through statements he deliberately made recently to London radio, in which he attacked Egypt only a few days after a meeting between al-Zubayr Salih and Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He also admitted granting a Sudanese passport to Rashid Ghanouche [leader of the Tunisian al-Nahdah movement] and later pressed al-Bashir into stating that parties will not return to Sudan and that reconciliation in Sudan will never be achieved on a multiparty basis.

Libya

Reaction to Allegations of Lockerbie Involvement

'Accusations' Discussed With Envoys

LD1611210191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation this afternoon summoned the heads of the diplomatic missions representing the countries of the Arab Maghreb, other Arab countries, African and Asian countries, and Latin American and European countries. During these meetings the diplomats were given the viewpoint of the Great Jamahiriyah concerning the U.S. and British accusations and were handed a copy of the statement on this subject issued by the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

Dissidents Blamed for Implicating Libya

LD1611213191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] In its main newscast today, London radio [not further identified] admitted that the group of stray dogs [Libyan dissidents] living in the United States had played the role of agent spies for that country in implicating the Great Jamahiriyah in the crash of the Pan Am aircraft. These reports confirm that the U.S. Administration relies on information supplied by elements who have been rejected by the Libyan Arab people for their direct treason against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and for their actions aimed at harming its gains, gains made thanks to the great 1 September revolution.

This also confirms the invalidity and false nature of the U.S. and British allegations regarding Libya's involvement in the aforementioned accident.

UN Delegate Denies Link

LD1711104491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Nov (JANA)—'Ali Ahmad al-Hudayri, the Great Jamahiriyah's permanent representative to the United Nations, has refuted claims made by the United States and Britain that Libya had a link with the crash of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland three years ago. In an interview with the American CNN television network, he said that American official circles want to take measures against Libya without producing evidence against it.

Brother al-Hudayri challenged the American and the British authorities to present evidence to a court, pointing out that it is a mistake for them to accuse anyone and to jump to the conclusion that something was committed by Libya, and to use this conclusion to carry out an aggression against it.

Brother 'Ali al-Hudyri pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah condemns all forms of terrorism which threaten human lives, adding: What we have here today is an accusation void of any real grounds; we believe that disputes between states should be resolved by sitting around a table for dialogue rather than making noises and firing bullets.

Brother al-Hudayri stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah is always ready to cooperate with the international community in dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism. He said: We, as an international community, are able to deal with this phenomenon. However, (?Libya's name should not be used) for personal reasons to carry out aggression against it, and if cooperation is wanted, then we should not jump to conclusions and consider Libya to be guilty.

The permanent representative of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations denied any role played by the Great Jamahiriyah in the Pan Am accident. He said that

we again challenge the American authorities to give one single piece of proof of its allegations. He further said: Those who accuse the Great Jamahiriyah of terrorism do not believe such accusations themselves and are not convinced of them; neither can they convince the families of the victims of their allegations.

West 'Failed' To Supply Proof

LD1711132191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Nov (JANA)—American and Western media continue to report statements made by American and British officials accusing Libya of involvement in the Lockerbie crash of the Pan Am airliner three years ago. However, the two governments have so far failed to produce evidence or proof to substantiate their claims.

The accusations against two Libyan nationals were suddenly made at this very moment—when the date of the American elections is approaching and when the American people's internal problems are escalating—in a bid to divert people's minds from such problems.

American and British circles are trying to make capital out of Libya, a small country which has been trying to develop itself and to transform its primitive society to the level of civilized peoples. The American Administration is aiming—by trying to implicate Libya in this incident—to pressure the Libyan Arab people through terrorism and threats to compel them to abandon their human choices.

The Great Jamahiriyah, which has repeatedly announced its rejection of all forms of terrorism, has itself been a victim of state terrorism.

Those who are leveling the accusations do not themselves believe in them; they are not convinced by them, nor can they convince anyone else. World public opinion will discover yet again the falsehood and invalidity of such accusations, just as were the cases surrounding the Berlin discotheque and Rome Airport incidents. The Jamahiriyah was accused, but investigations proved that Libya was not involved in either.

Israeli Ruling on Golan Heights Denounced

LD1611132791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Text" of communique by the People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau; date not given]

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, while not surprised at the Zionist Knesset's decision concerning the occupied Syrian region of the Golan, denounces the decision and most strongly condemns it, and reaffirms the solidarity of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with its sister Syria in its attachment to its right to recover all its occupied lands.

While the People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau warns of the Zionist policy based on aggression, expansion, and occupying lands by force, it calls on the international community, as represented by its international institutions and organizations, the Security Council and the United Nations in particular, to assume their responsibilities in applying principles of international legitimacy and international law to all, without exception.

Mauritania

Israel's Golan Decision Shows 'Total Contempt'

LD1711011391 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued the following statement this afternoon:

While the world started, after the recent Madrid conference, to look forward with some hope to an era where the peoples of the Middle East will enjoy peace and prosperity instead of war and destruction, the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, adopted a decision decreeing the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as nonnegotiable Israeli territory. By doing so, Israel has shown total contempt for UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of "land for peace," which are the main bases on which the sponsors of the Madrid negotiations and the negotiators themselves pin their hopes. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which condemns the Knesset's decision, would like to see the peace-loving forces exercise the necessary pressures on Israel in order to make her annul this decision so that the hopes of the peoples of the region for peace and stability do not evaporate.

Cabinet Approves Draft Decrees on Elections

LD1311232591 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Committee for National Salvation and head of state. During the meeting the council approved the following draft decrees:

A draft decree defining the measures concerning the election campaign and the voting operations in the presidential elections.

A draft decree defining the measures concerning the progress of the election campaign and explaining the practical arrangements of the elections for the deputies of the National Assembly.

A draft decree defining the measures concerning the progress of the election campaign and explaining practical arrangements for elections to the senate. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Criticizes New Referendum Criteria

LD1711150791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] today released an urgent press statement on the publication by a foreign news agency, citing UN sources, of a host of criteria for defining the identity of those taking part in the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.

The statement says that the Saharan side has not been informed officially of the Western criteria, and that it is only aware of the criteria defined by the UN Identity Commission and the Legal Department. The Polisario statement adds that anything that breaches those criteria constitutes a serious and unjustifiable violation of the international peace plan, and that this would promote the Moroccan proposal calling for a referendum to be held that will only confirm the Moroccan identity in Western Sahara.

Ministry Protests Moroccan Airspace Violations

LD1011125391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] A statement by the Saharan Information Ministry today strongly protests the repeated violations of Saharan airspace by Moroccan planes. These actions violate the cease-fire declared on 6 September.

The statement points out that Moroccan Air Force planes flew over the Bir Lahlou area many times yesterday. The statement called on the international community and the United Nations again to shoulder their responsibilities by accelerating the implementation of the peace plan in the Western Sahara.

Spokesman Criticizes Charges Against Libya

JN1611123491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1203 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Iraq has strongly criticized the latest accusations leveled against fraternal Libya by U.S. authorities.

In a statement to INA, an official Iraqi spokesman said: Iraq has always had a clear and firm position on terrorist operations. It opposed and criticized them. However, the accusations recently leveled against fraternal Libya by the U.S. authorities raise significant questions and issues.

The spokesman added: These accusations are being leveled against Libya three years after the fact. The leveling of accusations after this lengthy period means that the U.S. Administration has chosen this point in time to realize a certain objective detrimental to fraternal Libya, which was previously subjected to a U.S. aggression, and which could be a target for another aggression.

The spokesman went on to say: Irrespective of the circumstances surrounding the plane incident, we cannot isolate this U.S. conduct from the policy being pursued by the U.S. Administration to terrorize countries in order to silence them, subdue their will, and return Third World countries in particular to colonial rule, with all the objectives entailed in old colonial rule.

The spokesman said: If we are to speak of terrorism, then the U.S. Administration, particularly Bush's administration, leads the world in its pursuit of terrorism, violation of international law, and contravention of ethical and human values, as well as human rights.

The spokesman affirmed that this administration deliberately killed children, women, and elderly people during the military aggression on Iraq. Its crimes in this regard, especially the al-'Amiriyah shelter crime, are well known, the spokesman noted. It continues to conduct a process of slow death through its determination to maintain the blockade imposed on the great Iraqi people with the aim of denying them access to food, medicine, and human needs, the spokesman maintained.

The spokesman stressed that the aggression against Iraq, as well as the unjust and savage blockade imposed on the Iraqi people is a terrorist act that is more costly in human lives and in greater contravention of human values and norms.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: The accusing fingers must be pointed at Bush and his administration, which is perpetrating terrorism on the largest possible scale known to mankind under the guise of false slogans and on baseless grounds.

Assembly Denounces U.S. 'Onslaught'

JN1711150191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1424 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—The National Assembly has strongly denounced the fierce onslaught being launched by the United States against fraternal Arab Libya under the guise of the so-called new world order.

In a cable sent to the Libyan General People's Congress, the National Assembly stressed its absolute and total support for fraternal Libya against all premeditated, hostile foreign challenges, conspiracies, and designs.

The assembly explained that the United States was still trying to find justifications for launching this treacherous aggression against Libya, under the pretext of fighting international terrorism. While doing this, the United States has ignored its crimes against the Arab people and other peoples, including the peoples of Palestine and Vietnam, where large numbers of civilians were martyred, as well as its crime of aggression against Iraq, where a large number of civilians have been martyred as a result of the brutal, treacherous bombing of cities, villages, and public shelters. Thousands of women, children, and elderly have also died due to the unjust economic blockade of our militant country.

The assembly also stressed that the unjust campaign being launched against Libya comes after the 30-state aggression against Iraq, and amid the crime of besieging an entire people.

U.S.-UK 'Media Campaign' Denounced

JN1611185691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Analysis" read by Ra'id Ahmad; from the "Spotlight on the News" feature]

[Text] U.S. warplanes bombarded the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi in April 1986. The U.S. aggression resulted in the death and injury of scores of people. The U.S. Administration did not conceal the fact that its objective was to assassinate Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during the term of office of Reagan and his vice president, Bush. The excuse used by the U.S. Administration then was that the Libyan Government supported international terrorism, as U.S. officials put it.

Since then, the U.S. Administration has not stopped directing accusations and threats against the Libyan Government under various excuses and justifications. These excuses included saying that Libya possessed chemical weapons, Libya backed the PLO, and Libya supported Iraq in its confrontation against the 30-party aggression.

The accusations directed by U.S. and British authorities over the crash of the Pan Am airplane over Lockerbie in 1988 fall within the framework of a U.S. policy that is hostile to Libya and every other Arab country that defies U.S. and Zionist injustice.

According to a statement by an official Iraqi spokesman, the accusations made recently by the U.S. Administration against sisterly Libya raise important questions and issues. First, they are directed against Libya three years after the fact. Making accusations after such a long period indicates that the U.S. Administration has chosen

this particular time for a specific goal against sisterly Libya, a country which has been subjected to U.S. aggression and could be subjected to aggression again.

The official Iraqi spokesman added: Irrespective of the circumstances surrounding the airplane incident, we cannot isolate this U.S. conduct from the policy being pursued by the U.S. Administration to terrorize countries in order to silence them, subdue their will, and return Third World countries in particular to colonial rule with all the objectives that entails.

It is worth mentioning that Libya yesterday officially denied the U.S. and British accusations and called for establishing a neutral international commission to investigate the accusations. JANA cites a statement issued by the People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau as saying that the Foreign Ministry categorically denies any Libyan connection with the regrettable incident which led to the crash of the Pan Am airplane in 1988 or any knowledge of it by the Libyan authorities.

The statement further stressed Libya's denunciation of all forms of terrorism and expressed the Libyan people's sympathy toward, and solidarity with, the families of the victims of this incident.

Arab press and diplomatic sources in London described the U.S.- British media campaign against Libya as a scenario similar to that which set the stage for the military aggression against Iraq in January 1991. In a commentary, the London-based AL-'ARAB said that the CIA and the British intelligence service have revived the issue of the explosion aboard the American plane in 1988 in order to serve as an excuse for a military action against Libya. Some Arab diplomats in the British capital say that U.S. President George Bush's administration has now found a suitable subject that can be used to cover the decline of Bush's position within the United States, as confirmed by the defeat of Bush's Republican Party candidate in the Pennsylvania state election, which was won by the Democratic Party's candidate. The result prompted Bush's aides to arrange for a media clamor, possibly to prepare for another military action that would deny the Democrats any opportunity, especially since the negotiations for peace in the Arab region have lost their shine and have not yielded the desired fruits.

'U.S. Terrorist Campaign' Condemned

JN1711092091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the current U.S. terrorist campaign against Libya in preparation for launching an unjust aggression against it.

The paper, the mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today: What raises doubt and suspicion about the criminal U.S. real intentions toward sisterly Libya is that Washington seeks pretexts and justifications for its aggression on this Arab country by accusing it of bombing civilian airplanes.

The paper adds that the fabricated U.S. clamor and its timing at this stage cannot be separated from the conspiracy to submit the Arab nation to foreign influence. It aims at silencing any Arab voice that rejects the new world order and submission to U.S. hegemony.

The paper explains that once again Bush resorts to falsifying events and distorting reality. He ignores that his administration is one of the most organized institutions for practicing terrorism against world peoples, who today stand helpless as the sword of U.S. terrorism is directed at their throats and destinies, sometimes in the name of the new world order or in the name of human rights, and at other times under the slogan of civil liberties and democracy. The paper stresses that these are in fact false slogans that conceal the U.S. desire for absolute hegemony over the world without any moral or genuine human considerations.

The paper cautions that these false ready-made accusations to which Washington now resorts against sisterly Libya come after the brutal 30-state aggression on Iraq, and amid the crime of imposing an embargo on its people. They also come amid a deteriorating Arab situation on the official level, where most Arab regimes have bowed to the bitter U.S. flood, leaving the Arab masses alone armed only with faith and the will to struggle, which escalated during the epic of the Mother of Battles.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes: Washington laments the passengers of the airplane, yet it daily causes the death of thousands of people in the world. It sheds crocodile tears for those victims while ignoring the death of thousands of Iraqi children, women, and elderly as a result of dangerous shortages of food and medicine. This deliberate annihilation of the people of Iraq does not stir its false humanitarianism.

Kurdish-Iraqi Agreement on Autonomy Reached

NC1511184091 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Ankara, Nov 15 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurds and the Baghdad government have reached agreement on details of an autonomous Kurdish region to be set up in northern Iraq, an Iraqi Kurdish radio station monitored in Turkey said Friday.

The Voice of Kurdistan of Iraq said delegates to talks Thursday in the northern town of Shaqlawah, near al-Sulaymaniyah, agreed that an "autonomous administration" should be set up, formed of local Kurdish leaders, but under the supervision of Baghdad.

Kurdish fighters, or peshmerga, would be in charge of security in Kurdish regions and schools in northern Iraq would teach in both Arabic and Kurdish, according to a

statement by Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the main factions in the Iraqi Kurdistan Front.

His statement was carried by the radio, which was monitored by the Turkish News Agency ANATOLIA.

Talabani said negotiations would continue and could be wound up within the next few days in Baghdad, according to ANATOLIA.

Kurds Ordered To Evacuate Before Regime Attack

NC1511164591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1602 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received the following: According to information available to us, the troops of the ruling regime have warned the inhabitants of the areas of (Markiya) and (Shamamak) that they must leave them within 24 hours. Two troop carriers and a commander's jeep were seen in the area of (Girdi Dughan), where reports indicate that the regime's troops in this area have harassed the citizens and warned them that the government troops will attack the region.

Large numbers of troops from the Army and the Republican Guards, supported by long-range artillery, have taken up positions along the Makhmur-Irbil road. To avert the outbreak of war once again, the Irbil coordination committee has sent a retired officer to the region on a fact-finding mission and to meet with the Army commanders there. The Army commanders told the coordination committee envoy that [Iraqi Defense Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has given orders to attack the region, clear out its inhabitants, and kill anyone who does not comply with the Army's orders.

It seems that the decision to wage war this time, as previously in Kurdistan, has come from 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, commander of the ill-famed al-Anfal operations and the one who implemented the decision to use chemical weapons against our unjustly treated people.

While warning the regime, its troops, and Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid of the consequences of any attack against the region, we hold the government responsible for once again triggering war. We emphasize that the Kurdistan Front's Peshmerga troops are fully prepared to defend every inch of Kurdistan's territories and to safeguard the dignity and honor of its peoples. They will not let the regime's troops set foot once more in the land of Kurdistan.

Irbil Residents Ordered To Evacuate

LD1611175491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan Majid has given residents of some areas of the Kurdish-populated province of Irbil in northern Iraq 24 hours to evacuate the area. The Voice of the Front of Iraqi Kurdistan [seda-ye jebheh-ye Kurdistan-e 'Eraq] reported this, and said: People who have not left the area by the deadline will be shot, according to the statement issued in this connection by the Iraqi defense minister. The Iraqi Defense Ministry statement forbids residents of the areas to take vehicles of any kind with them.

Trade Minister on Food Situation in Kurdistan

JN1611214791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih says that the ministry has been distributing food rations on a monthly basis to citizens in all of the Iraqi governorates, including those within the autonomous region—Dahuk, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah—in equal quantities and of the same quality since 2 August 1990.

The minister underlined the responsibility of the state to make food available to the Iraqi people in the north, the south, and the center; this is part of its national responsibility toward the people. He was speaking at a news conference he convened today for television, news agency, and foreign press correspondents, as well as INA, Iraqi television, and local press reporters.

He said that stocks in the northern region now stand at nearly 50,000 tonnes of various foodstuffs, which exceeds the storage capability of a number of other governorates. However, these stocks are under threat as a result of some irresponsible Kurdish elements looting or torching facilities used to get food to the people.

He added that Iraq had contracts for the importation of food items worth $2 billion under Paragraph 20 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 covering the purchase of food with Iraqi funds frozen in foreign banks. Sadly, we have not been able to import the contracted quantities due to our failure to unblock the funds frozen overseas.

Dr. Mahdi Salih dismissed hostile media allegations that Iraq had failed to honor undertakings to make food available to the Iraqi people in the governorates in the autonomous region.

He said that the food items held in silos in the autonomous region today amounted to 49,072 tonnes, of which 40,637 tonnes were wheat; the Zakho silo had 13,924 tonnes, the Irbil silo 18,067 tonns, the Makhmur silo in the Irbil Governorate 874,000 tonnes [figure as received] of flour and 5,000 tonnes of barley.

He noted the availability of sufficient infant formula, in addition to such staples as vegetable oils and tea, in the warehouses of the Governorates of Dahuk, Irbil, and al-Sulaymaniyah. The ministry staff is working in these governorates to offer the best services to citizens, said the minister. He emphasized that al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate is receiving its share from the Irbil silos.

The trade minister said that the amount of food supplied to the autonomous region during the past month was 300 percent larger than that supplied to the region during last

January. Some additional 300,000 people are being supplied with foodstuffs, he stated.

He said that irresponsible Kurdish elements burned the Irbil flour mill on 17 October. This is one of the major mills that provides Irbil with 50 percent of its needs. The same mill was also damaged during the chapter of treason and treachery. The Trade Ministry is now working to reconstruct the mill, the minister said.

If there exists any difficulty in supplying the autonomus region's governorates with food, the minister noted, then the irresponsible Kurdish elements are to blame because there are large quantities of food in the stores of these governorates. He explained that vehicles transporting food are subjected to acts of sabotage and threats by these elements.

The minister said that those who crow about freedom and human rights would be better off lifting the economic blockade against Iraq so that it can ensure better supplies of food to the Iraqi people.

He said that Iraq will resist any resolution that opposes or affects Iraq's freedom or harms the country's sovereignty and independence.

He noted that Iraq, which has two immortal rivers—the Euphrates and the Tigris—and good earth is able to secure food for its people, to reject interference in its internal affairs, and to oppose turning food into a tool of political pressure and extortion to harm the will of struggling peoples.

Minister Salih explained that the economic recession currently being experienced by the United States is due to the economic blockade against Iraq, which used to import $20 billion worth of goods annually, mostly from U.S. and Western markets. The effect on the markets of the countries surrounding the region has also influenced levels of local production. The minister said that Iraq gave the United States and all the nations of the world a lesson in resistance, valor, and the defense of principles.

'Arab Tribes' in Karkuk Asked To Return Weapons

NC1611065891 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Government authorities have asked the Arab tribes in the Karkuk region to hand over their weapons no later than 16 November. The authorities are the ones who gave these tribes weapons in the past.

Daily Editor Examines Saddam's Speech to Media

JN1611114791 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 91 pp 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sa'd al-Bazzaz: "The Commandments"]

[Text] After the conclusion of the intimate meeting between the leader and Iraqi media cadres, the culture and information minister asked me why I did not speak in the presence of the leader. I gave him the same answer I gave myself when the question surfaced within me. I said: I wanted to absorb every word he uttered. I sought to retain the image of each and every inspirational element that radiated from the leader's eyes. Furthermore, I wanted to preserve the image of each and every gesture made by his hands.

The problem of phrase-makers is harder than that of others when they meet the esteemed leader. When they meet him and listen to his words, they suddenly find themselves speechless, as he addresses them with a simple, and yet almost matchless language, and continues to surprise them with the richness of his phrases. At such a moment, they find themselves in need of an art that is finer than articulation. It is the art of listening, contemplation, and clutching to rare moments of one's lifetime. Such moments can become a topic for retrospective writing at present and in the future. That is why we remember the day and date on which this meeting took place, not to mention its duration.

Many people might be curious about the commandments articulated by the leader, and given as a trust to be kept and upheld by his soldiers who work in the field of communication, and who contribute toward shaping the Iraqi mind. Here, I recall the commandments that I, myself, have selected. These are:

First, leader Saddam Husayn said that the media constitute the people's lawyer, who can help them win their case. With regard to the people's cause today, it is one of struggle against the injustice imposed on them by their enemies. The leader advised media men to adopt a method for handling issues that would create a sympathetic response. This is because many people lose their cases when their ability to express themselves is not up to the level required. His excellency the president noted that the newspaper must devise means of handling issues and topics in a way that would render the phrases printed on paper as utterances coming from a persuasive mind and a sincere heart.

Second, democracy is a topic that touches all aspects of life. With respect to those working in the cultural, media, and art fields, they are required to be extremely willing to accept dissenting views. It is unnatural for us to be democrats only in politics, or to ask only politicians to accept dissenting views while we deprive them and others of the chance to criticize an artistic, literary, or creative product. That is why the leader reminded media men the day before yesterday [11 November] of two of the most noble pieces of advice cherished in Islam. They are the following: "To be truly religious is to offer advice when needed," and "Your true friend is he who is truthful to you, rather than he who believes whatever you say." [Sayings of Prophet Muhammad]

Third, the leader said: "Development in the media field lies in their ability to predict events and follow them." By saying this, he placed media men on a higher level

than those who have remained content, thus accepting to remain backward and oblivious to life's changes.

Fourth, the leader president urged the media to identify man's needs, establish correct habits within the society, and to reinforce existing sound habits. The existence of diverse views and tastes is an established fact. This is the way of life. Hence, when we highlight an issue, this should not be at the expense of other issues. That is why the leader recommended that the mainstay of the media is the spiritual aspect, because it is one of the components of faith, which is our base—the base that reflects what we believe in. The leader added: "This should not mean that we must have a gloomy media. Similarly, it should not mean that we must have a light-headed media. If there are poles and different weights in life, the driving pole is not of light weight."

Fifth, the leader diagnosed development that we need in the media field, while acknowledging that we need development in various walks of life. He said that this development must be wide-ranging and extensive, because relative and simple development does not heal the wound. This descriptive diagnosis might be one of the lessons drawn from the Mother of Battles. With regard to life, the leader said: "Its wounds are not healed step by step."

Sixth, leader President Saddam Husayn spelled out two priority functions at this point in time for the culture that we need with a view to providing us with further immunity and effecting further rationalization in expenditure.

Seventh, the leader gave precedence to dealing with youth in society. He said that the media's task is to build secure, stable, militant, and hardy individuals. This is because the problem does not lie in the existence of an erroneous phenomenon that has to be resisted, but rather in the emergence of some bad things, thanks to contributions made in this regard by the media. To put into effect the leader's recommendation regarding youth, the media needs to carefully examine the leader's advice concerning the enrichment of vision, seeking accuracy to effect balance, and mostly diligence.

Eighth, the historic leader charted an avenue for writers to walk to help them learn the lessons provided by the epics of the grandest battle in the history of Arabs and mankind, the epic in which Iraqis met the most ferocious machines of destruction ever mobilized on the face of the earth. Let the media remember that the Iraqis were the first to make the Zionists weep and bleed, and that all the weapons of destruction used against Iraq have failed to change the azimuth of the compass devised and used by Iraqis. Likewise, let them remember that the enemy's air supremacy failed to prevent Iraqi troops from conducting audacious assault operations, in which they penetrated tens of kilometers deep inside enemy territory, sweeping before them enemy positions and seizing its lifeline and communications centers.

It is high time to start talking about the glories forged by the Iraqis in the Mother of Battles, and also what the Iraqis did in the chapters of steadfastness and assault. The clear consequences of the harm that the Iraqis inflicted on their enemies will emerge once the ashes of the storm of lies and falsehoods launched by the Western media vanish into thin air.

Intelligence Groups Clash; 60 Killed

NC1611171791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] A violent clash occurred between intelligence men from the Baghdad area and the al-Anbar area on 14 November. Sixty people from both sides were killed in the incident.

Interrogations Shifted to Judicial Authorities

JN1611151691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah has hailed the results of the reconstruction campaign, currently under way in Iraq, results which have surprised the enemies.

This praise came in a speech the prime minister made at a regular meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. [passage omitted]

The council discussed the topics on its agenda and adopted the necessary resolutions and recommendations with regard to them, foremost of which was approving the recommendations presented by the Interior Ministry and studied later by the Ministry of Justice. The recommendations stipulate a shifting of judicial interrogation procedures, according to amended Penal Code No. 23 of 1971, from the police stations of the Ministry of Interior to the Department of Investigation and Judicial Interrogators affiliated to the Ministry of Justice.

The council approved providing the necessary job grades for this purpose and preparing judicial investigators for all parts of Iraq.

The council then discussed a recommendation to increase the capital of the Real Estate Bank to enable it to give real estate loans to the military. It approved the recommendation of increasing the bank's capital by 500 million Iraqi dinars.

Foreign Ministry Transfers, Appointments Reported

JN1711174491

[Editorial Report] Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic on 13 November on page 10 reports the following transfers and appointments in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry:

1. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, will devote himself to Ba'th Party activities and will keep his post as ambassador at the ministry.

2. Taha Yasin al-Basri, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department.
3. Fadil al-Shahir, Iraq's ambassador to Morocco, will be transferred to the Foreign Ministry.
4. Nadim al-Yasin, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed Iraq's ambassador to Morocco.
5. Dr. Qutaybah Muhammad Hasan has been appointed Iraq's permanent representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Biography of New Interior Minister Published

JN1611170291 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Nov 91 p 4

[Biography of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, the new interior minister]

[Text] 1. Born in Tikrit, Salah-al-Din Governorate, in 1952.
2. Obtained a bachelors degree in law from Baghdad University's Department of Law and Politics in 1977.
3. Assumed the post of director general of the Office of the Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman and secretary of the North Affairs Committee in 1980.
4. Appointed adviser at the Office of the President of the Republic in 1988.
5. Assumed the post of Interior Ministry under secretary during the great jihad epic, the Mother of Battles, in 1991.
6. Appointed Salah-al-Din governor in the same year.
7. Appointed interior minister on 13 November 1991.

Reaction to UN Chief's Comments on Resources, Oil

JN1611150591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Iraq stressed that the UN plan to supervise the export of Iraqi oil paves the way to the imposition of foreign custodianship over its resources, national wealth, and internal affairs.

Reacting to statements made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to the French magazine, L'EXPRESS, on 8 November, an official Foreign Ministry source told INA that the plan completely contradicts the UN Charter and the principles of international law and that it will not lead to a lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq but, rather, seeks to maintain it.

The source explained that L'EXPRESS asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his reaction to Iraq's increasing calls on the United Nations to end the economic blockade imposed on it. Perez de Cuellar had replied: The situation there is very serious. The UN secretary general added that the United Nations had formulated a plan to export Iraqi oil under international supervision and that Iraq believes this plan infringes upon its sovereignty. The secretary general concluded his answer by saying: It is up to Iraq to choose what it believes is more important—either to preserve its sovereignty or to accept this plan.

The official Foreign Ministry source said: Perez de Cuellar admits frankly that the plan he established to implement the unfair Resolution No. 706 is even more unfair than the resolution itself and that it infringes upon Iraqi sovereignty and interferes in Iraq's domestic affairs. All this despite the fact that Perez de Cuellar tried hard to give the impression that Iraq is the one that believes this plan infringes upon its sovereignty.

The source added: Here we would like to stress Iraq's clear views on the mentioned resolution and plan. We tell Perez de Cuellar that Resolution 706 is unfair and interferes in Iraq's internal affairs. The plan he set paves the way for the imposition of foreign custodianship over Iraq's resources, national wealth, and internal affairs. The plan completely contradicts the UN Charter and principles of international law. It will not lead to a lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq but, rather, seeks to maintain it. These clear views are not the views of Iraq alone, but the views of the majority of the members of the international community. Furthermore, they are in concurrence with the opinions of many experts in the areas of international law and oil affairs.

The official Foreign Ministry source said: Regrettably, this is not the first time that Perez de Cuellar's reaction is devoid of the objectivity dictated by the nature of his post as UN secretary general, a post entrusted with compliance with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter. His reaction is not even based on the principles of justice and fairness.

The source added: It is clear that Perez de Cuellar is not interested in the fate of millions of children, women, and old men who suffer from malnutrition, a lack of medicine, and the spread of diseases because of the unjust and unfair blockade that has been imposed on Iraq for over a year. Perez de Cuellar has even ignored many of the facts revealed by humanitarian organizations with regard to the serious consequences of the treacherous blockade. Instead of talking about all of these things, we see him explaining to L'EXPRESS the real objective behind Resolution 706; that is, to usurp Iraq's independence and sovereignty and to mortgage the Iraqi people's wealth under the pretext of providing Iraq's needs for food and medicine.

The Foreign Ministry source stated: We expected Perez de Cuellar to side with the truth and to draw attention to the fact that Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments to the United Nations has not prompted the UN Security Council to make any move toward lifting, or even reducing, the unfair blockade. This is due to the position of one or two member states in the council that insist on using the United Nations as a cover to implement their suspect policy and to impose their hegemony over the world and the resources of the people.

Concluding his statement, the Foreign Ministry source said that he regrets the fact that Perez de Cuellar has chosen to make his position echo those of the unjust

forces even at a time when he is preparing to leave his position at the United Nations.

Confiscated Enriched Uranium Flown to USSR

NC1511201291 Paris AFP in English 1932 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 15 (AFP)—A first consignment of enriched uranium confiscated from Iraq by the United Nations was flown out to the Soviet Union on Friday, the head of a U.N. nuclear mission here said.

"Everything went smoothly," said Dhimitrios Perricos, leader of a team of International Atomic Energy Agency experts charged by the United Nations with eliminating Iraq's nuclear potential.

A U.N.-chartered Soviet aircraft took off from al-Habbaniyah airport, to the west of Baghdad, with a load of 8.2 kilograms (17 pounds) of uranium, including 6.6 kilograms of enriched material, in sealed containers.

Enriched uranium can be used for both civilian and military uses.

The same aircraft was expected to return from Moscow and on Sunday pick up the second and last consignment of uranium that had originally been supplied to Iraq by the Soviet Union.

Only around 300 grams (10.5 ounces) of enriched uranium supplied by France will remain in Iraq, Perricos said. Asked if France was likely to take back the material, he said: "I don't think they will disagree."

But Iraq still has "a lot" of irradiated uranium, which is dangerous to handle and difficult to destroy, Perricos said. He declined to specify the amount of that material Iraq had.

In Moscow, the news agency INTERFAX reported Thursday that the Soviet Union had agreed to store the returned uranium "temporarily" under a commercial deal with the United Nations.

Prime Minister Meets USSR Envoy; Ties Discussed

JN1711102691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today received USSR ambassador in Baghdad Viktor Posuvalyuk. They discussed bilateral ties and means of enhancing them in the common interest of the peoples of the two friendly countries during the meeting.

Trade Minister Departs for UNCTAD Meeting

JN1711123191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih left for Tehran today to take part in the seventh ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 within UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development], which will begin there next Tuesday and will last five days.

Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih told the INA correspondent that the meetings, whose preparatory committees began their work on 16 November, aim at preparing for the eighth UNCTAD meetings to be held in the Colombian capital in February of next year to discuss unifying the viewpoints of the developing countries on the issues and topics that will be raised during the meetings.

He indicated that the meetings will discuss various topics including the flaws in the international economic system, flow of resources, international trade system, transfer of technology, services, and basic commodities, in addition to topics related to economic cooperation between developing countries and less developed ones.

He explained that during the meeting of senior UNCTAD officials in Tehran last Saturday Iraq was elected as one of the vice presidents of the group's ministerial meeting.

It is worth noting that Iraq has been a member of the Group of 77 and has been keeping up with its meeting since the group's establishment in 1964.

Saddam Receives Thank-You Cable From 'Arafat

JN1711070191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Text" of cable from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in reply to a cable sent by Saddam Husayn to 'Arafat on "the third anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn: Blessed greetings. Your fraternal cable of congratulations sent to us on the third anniversary of the independence declaration, the declaration of the establishment of the state of Palestine, has had a very good impact on me, on my brothers within the Palestinian leadership, and also on our people. On behalf of them all, and in my name, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to your excellency, and through you, to your esteemed government, and also to the fraternal Iraqi people for the sincere fraternal sentiments expressed, and for the support and backing you affirmed in the congratulatory cable you sent us on this national occasion.

The third anniversary comes this year at a fateful and critical phase being experienced by our people's just cause, and also at a time when our nation's enemies are attempting to impose their control and policies on it. However, our Palestinian Arab people, supported and backed by all free and honorable people of our nation, and also by the fraternal Iraqi people under your courageous leadership, as well as all friends all over the world,

will confront these challenges and malicious conspiracies, and forge ahead with their just cause and their blessed intifadah, demonstrating strong determination and resolve under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, until victory is achieved through the termination of the Israeli occupation of their territory and holy places, and the restoration and exercise of their inalienable national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew to your excellency the great pride that we take in the ties of fraternity and common destiny binding us, and also in the firm and courageous support you are extending to our people's just cause to enable them to achieve their sublime national objectives of freedom, independence, national sovereignty, as well as the restoration and exercise of their inalienable national rights.

While reiterating my deep thanks, I beseech Almighty God to grant your excellency, president and dear brother, continued good health and happiness, and to bestow on the fraternal Iraqi people progress, pride, and prosperity.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Let us work together until we achieve victory and regain liberated Jerusalem, God willing.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Saddam Congratulates Qabus on Oman National Day

JN1811092791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on his majesty's birthday and on fraternal Oman's national day.

The cable says: On the occasion of your majesty's birthday and on the national day of the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, it pleases me to congratulate your majesty on these two occasions, to wish you health and happiness, the fraternal people of the Sultanate of Oman further progress and prosperity, and our glorious Arab nation continued loftiness.

Red Crescent Delegation Departs for Budapest

JN1711195091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi Red Crescent Society delegation, led by the head of the society, Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, left Baghdad for Hungary this morning to participate in the 26th diplomatic conference of International Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations. The conference is scheduled to open in Budapest on 22 November and will last for two weeks.

The conference will discuss the application of the Geneva Convention to the prisoners of war of the aggressive U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic war against Iraq. It will also study the best way to apply international law, as well as restrictions on the use of certain weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

Shamir Continues U.S. Visit, Discusses Relations

'Greater Coordination' With U.S. Needed

TA1711064491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Los Angeles on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr. Shamir, do you expect the venue and format of the bilateral talks to be worked out in your meeting with President Bush?

[Shamir] I still do not know if that will be the main issue in the talk. I might have other talks before then, and then we will know more. There is no doubt that the peace process will be raised in my talk with President Bush.

[Ben-'Ami] What do you expect from the meeting with President Bush?

[Shamir] The talks with U.S. leaders, and mainly with the president, of course, are aimed at reaching greater coordination and an identity of views, if that is possible. We all know there are differences; there have been for years. Now, however, as we begin the peace process and at what may be a decisive time, it is most important that the differences in the positions of Israel and the United States not be too prominent. Neither side will achieve its aims if there are differences. We would like to achieve peace, but, of course, on conditions that the State of Israel can live with and exist under. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 17 November quotes Shamir as saying that he "opposes holding the bilateral negotiations in Washington for logistical reasons. He said Israeli negotiators could only travel to Washington once a month since they each hold key positions back home."]

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Shamir, a question on differences at home. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres declared yesterday that he was prepared for a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty with the Syrians.

[Shamir] I believe that Shim'on Peres' view are irrelevant today.

[Ben-'Ami] Your meeting with the Jewish community follows a certain crisis between it and the White House on the loan guarantee issue. Have you come to rally Jews to continue supporting the Israeli request?

[Shamir] I have always believed that U.S. Jewry's support for Israel throughout the years is unique in world history. It is very serious, massive aid by millions of people, who are drafted to assist Israel, sometimes against the wishes of the U.S. Administration. They do it out of an awareness that by doing so they are not damaging U.S. interests—on the contrary. That unique cooperation between the State of Israel and U.S. Jewry is one of the central pillars of Israel's strength. That situation must be strengthened all the time without interruption. Sometimes there are difficulties here and there, some obstacles; that is natural. They must be overcome, and I believe it is possible. What I hear here is very encouraging.

'No Place' for 'Two States'

TA1811052791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated there is no place in the Land of Israel for two states. Speaking to a Jewish rally in Los Angeles, Shamir said Israel may have a long history, but a small space. The prime minister expressed hope that the Bush administration will approve Israel's request for $10 billion in loan guarantees, but he stressed that Israel will not tell Jews to postpone their immigration for 120 days because of technical problems.

[Begin Shamir recording] Jerusalem is one city, united, never to be divided again. It was and it will always be our national capital, the heart and soul of the entire Jewish people. [applause] [end recording]

Prime Minister Shamir met with former British Premier Margaret Thatcher in Los Angeles. Thatcher said she believed the prospect of peace in the Middle East is better now than ever.

[Begin Thatcher recording] Things and circumstances come together to make a solution possible, which a few years ago wouldn't be. So that is a cause for optimism. [end recording]

Shamir Warned Against Broaching Loan Guarantees

TA1711101291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] U.S. Jewish circles and administration officials have recently sent messages to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asking him not to stress the immigrant loan guarantees issue in his upcoming meeting with President Bush .

Early evaluations by administration officials, including some in the White House, indicate the President wants to concentrate on general political issues linked to the peace process and bilateral relations during his meeting with Shamir in the White House on Friday.

This was understood in Jerusalem to mean that Bush might also not discuss the venue for the peace talks with Shamir. Rather, Bush would leave that to Secretary of State James Baker.

Jerusalem sources confirmed last night that in messages received in recent days from various sources in the United States, Shamir was warned not to stress the delay in the loan guarantees, either in his meeting with Bush or in his media appearances. The sources said that although Shamir does not plan to concentrate on the guarantees

issue in his talk with Bush, he would bring it up and stress Israel's need for U.S. economic aid for immigrant absorption.

Based on the incoming messages, it is clear that the administration does not plan to give Israel the requested guarantees for $10 billion over five years unconditionally. [passage omitted]

Pankin Offers Moscow as Multilateral Talks Venue

TA1811093591 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir over the weekend asking that Israel consider holding the multilateral talks of the peace process in Moscow, the USSR capital.

The message was conveyed orally to Israel's ambassador to the USSR, Arye Levin, and delivered through the USSR representative in Tel Aviv. Similar messages were also sent to the Arab leaders. In the message, Pankin also addresses the Arab-Israeli dispute over the venue of the bilateral talks. Although he does not reject Israel's position that the talks should be held "in the region," the Soviet minister states that the positions of all the parties must be taken into account and that the venue issue should not be an obstacle to continued progress in the talks.

It is worth noting that according to reports that have recently reached Jerusalem, Pankin might not keep his post for long. According to these reports, President Gorbachev intends to reappoint Eduard Shevardnadze as USSR foreign minister.

Sources in Jerusalem believe that Pankin's request to host the multilateral talks in Moscow is coordinated with the Americans and is part of the U.S. effort to convene the bilateral talks in Washington. Jerusalem sources yesterday made it clear that Israel will not oppose convening the multilateral forum in Moscow, but it has reservations concerning Washington as the venue for the bilateral talks.

Senior Jerusalem sources clarified yesterday that as far as Israel is concerned, Washington is the least favored venue option. The sources said that Israel is "pushing" Cyprus in response to the Arab countries' refusal to hold the talks alternately on their territory and in Israel, as Israel had originally suggested.

The sources made it clear that Israel even prefers Europe over Washington as the venue. The sources explained this position by citing primarily reasons of logistics and the great distance between Israel and the United States, but it appears that among the various reasons guiding Israel's position is its fear that talks in Washington might allow the Palestinians to cash in on their achievements from Madrid in the U.S. media and public opinion.

Gaza Bodies, Civil Administration Agree on Council

TA1611191291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] All the organizations on the Gaza Strip, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], eached an agreement permitting the appointment of a new city council in Gaza. The council will be comprised of 17 members and headed by attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who is identified with Fatah.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Civil Administration has given its blessing to the move and that the PLO has also endorsed the council's establishment.

Gaza Strip residents expressed the belief that the political climate in the wake of the Madrid conference helped conclude the negotiations on the new council, as elements on the Gaza Strip assume that it will eventually serve as a mechanism for the transfer of authority from Israel.

Abu-Rahmah on Funding, Operations

TA1711164991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, head designate of the Gaza municipal council, by Goni Mardor—live, recorded in English followed by passage-by-passage translation into Hebrew by Mardor]

[Text] [Mardor] Good afternoon to you, Dr. Abu-Rahmah.
[Abu-Rahmah] Good afternoon.

[Mardor] You have agreed in principle to establish a locally-led municipal council in Gaza. Do you regard that as a breakthrough?
[Abu-Rahmah] Yes, it's a breakthrough, in fact, because for the last 11 years there has been no municipal council for Gaza, and the formation of this council will create a new climate for Gaza municipality.

[Mardor] Where will the funds come from to that municipal council?
[Abu-Rahmah] The funds will be donations by Saudi Arabia.

[Mardor] Only?
[Abu-Rahmah] By the EEC, by Islamic countries.

[Mardor] Can you describe already the allocation of seats?
[Abu-Rahmah] The members will be 17, including the mayor, and they represent all groups of Gaza.

[Mardor] Can you work together, all these groups?
[Abu-Rahmah] We will try.

[Mardor] Dr. Abu-Rahmah, the Madrid peace conference—do you think that it affected the timing of this municipal council, did it speed it up maybe?

[Abu-Rahmah] No. In fact, the timing has nothing to do with Madrid. The municipality was thought over before Madrid, there were talks about it before Madrid.

[Mardor] It was said that you were offended that you were not included in the Palestinian delegation to Madrid, and yet you agreed to head now the municipal council.
[Abu-Rahmah] Well, I was not offended by not being taken to Madrid, and it's an ordinary procedure to take whom they think will be fit, so I wasn't offended.

[Mardor] You were not.
[Abu-Rahmah] No.

[Mardor] You will have to be working together with the Israeli Civil Administration. Do you think that is possible in the long run?
[Abu-Rahmah] I think it's possible, and there will be room for cooperation for the welfare of the city.

[Mardor] Will you be able, Dr. Abu-Rahmah, to separate political issues and services? You will not be permitted to deal with any foreign affairs or with security issues.
[Abu-Rahmah] Yes, we will not tackle issues which are of a security nature; we will stick to our own business. Political issues are of importance, and they will be tackled in a moderate way, without any fanaticism or extremism, so this will create a certain balance in the behavior of the municipal council.

[Mardor] Dr. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, thank you very much.
[Abu-Rahmah] Thank you.

'Autonomous Administration' Beginning

TA1711201991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpts] A city council that will run Gaza's municipal affairs will be set up within a week, attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, the council head designate, stated today. Speaking to our correspondent, he confirmed the existence of an agreement to this effect, which has been formulated with the defense establishment and the Civil Administration. The agreement has been accepted by all the Palestinian organizations, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and represents the beginning of an autonomous administration [minhal otonomi] in Gaza. Our correspondent in the south Shlomi Eldar reports:

[Begin video recording] This is the municipality building in Gaza. Mayor Muhammad Turkamani quit the job four years ago, fearing for his life. The job called for contacts with the Israeli authorities, which the population considered inexcusable. In the last few years, Gaza had been run by Zakariyah Makki, the town's director general [name and title as heard].

Arab sources confirmed today that contacts have been under way to set up a city council to run Gaza's affairs. This is a very sensitive and complicated matter. Many groups must be persuaded in order to appoint a mayor and councilmen acceptable to all and to secure their well-being and, consequently, their agreement to take the job. The council must include Fatah and Hamas, the factions that tear the Arab population apart, and this is definitely no easy task.

According to the contacts held by the Civil Administration and the defense establishment, Gaza's city council will include 17 members headed by attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, the chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, who is identified with Fatah. [passage omitted] [end recording]

A spokesman for Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, stated this evening that the Civil Administration has been holding talks with Gaza dignitaries for about a year in a bid to allow them to run the city's municipal affairs. As soon as the candidates are prepared to accept administrative powers, these will be handed over to them, the spokesman noted.

Saudi Arabia, Jordan To Finance Projects

TA1811135191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The defense establishment has allowed entrepreneurs and investors in the Gaza Strip to invest in economic projects financed by Saudi Arabia. It has also confirmed that the Gaza municipal council will receive money from Saudi Arabia and the EC to finance municipal economic projects and the regular running of the council. Another source of finance is Jordan, which last year transferred several hundred thousand dinars to the Gaza municipality via its Jordanian bank account with the consent of the defense establishment.

Security sources have reported that in the past few months there have been contacts between Gaza Strip leaders and Saudi royals in which the possibility of establishing a bank in the city with Saudi financing was discussed.

The Gaza city council will be formed in a week, after all the Palestinian organizations in the Gaza Strip, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], have given their consent. The council, which will be called the local council for the temporary administration of the city of Gaza, is supposed to include 17 members, among them Dr. Muhammad al-Zahhar, a leading Hamas figure from the Gaza Strip.

A senior defense establishment source told HA'ARETZ last night that a staff officer for domestic affairs from the Gaza Strip Civil Administration will be put in charge of the temporary city council. According to the senior source, the city council will enjoy the same rights and obligations as its sister councils in Rafah and other towns in the territories. In response to a question of whether the defense establishment would permit independent elections in Gaza, the source said: "This is possible, but under certain conditions." [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Arens yesterday approved the appointment of Colonel Dov Gazit as head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, to replace Brigadier General Arye Shiffman-Ramot.

Arens on Gaza Autonomy, Palestinian Immunity

TA1711181891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dani Levi, in Arens' office on 17 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, translated from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Arens] We definitely will address the formal transfer of power, in accordance with an agreement, if we reach it, when autonomy negotiations begin. However, as I have said, here we are talking about handing over municipal affairs to Gaza representatives. There are other cities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District where municipal matters are handled by representatives of the local population. In Gaza, this has not been the case, but I hope this will now change.

[Levi] Sir, do you anticipate a smooth transition should the defense establishment be required to transfer rule to the local Palestinians, though naturally with the exception of foreign and security affairs?

[Arens] We have not yet reached that stage, and this is not the right time or opportunity to hold negotiations over this. We are happy that representatives of the Palestinian population are prepared to engage in negotiations with us on the basis of the Camp David accords and a two-phase process, the first of which will be autonomy. We will make every effort to reach an agreement on the autonomy arrangements in those negotiations.

[Levi] Is there a chance that the defense establishment might take measures toward making the transition to autonomous rule easier?

[Arens] Our responsibility in the area is to guarantee the safety of the population—Jewish or Arab—that moves and lives in the area in question. This is the goal of our policy, and we are guided by that principle.

[Levi] How would you define the defense establishment's policy with respect to the political committees operating in the area, or the political meetings that have been held since the Madrid conference?

[Arens] We have no objection in principle to rallies, so long as they are sanctioned by the authorities, and this is a must. These can be rallies connected with the negotiations, or ones in which the representatives of the population report to the locals about the negotiations.

[Levi] What about the political committees?

[Arens] I do not know what they are; no one has come to me with proposals to establish such committees. This is the first time I have heard about them.

[Levi] Have the political committees that exist in the area been set up without coordination or contact with the defense establishment?

[Arens] I am unaware that such committees exist. It depends on their purpose and nature. They may not even require Defense Ministry license.

[Levi] Mr. Minister, what is your reaction to the reported U.S. demand that no steps against 'Ashrawi be taken without coordination with the U.S. Administration?

[Arens] I think it would have been better for foreign countries such as the United States not to interfere in processes involving the Israeli legal system. I presume we likewise would never interfere in legal processes in other countries.

[Levi] Do you think that such a move, or such a step by the Israeli authorities could harm the peace process, as the Americans maintain?

[Arens] I do not know, but you know that I believe it is widely acceptable that legal processes should proceed without reference to any outside considerations, no matter how important they may be. The legal system should act within the law and the criteria acceptable to the system in which it functions.

[Levi] Is there no room to grant immunity to Palestinians in the territories who actually negotiate with the Israeli Government?

[Arens] There is no immunity for the Israeli representatives in the Madrid conference or in the peace process. People live according to the law. I am not expressing any view on this matter; this is up to the legal system. However, in a country of law there is no room for immunity.

[Levi] Is it not time, sir, for this law—which in fact puts Israel in a situation others call absurd—to be repealed?

[Arens] This may be your view, but I do not believe that this is the right time to discuss the question of whether this or any other law should be repealed. There is constant legal activity in the Knesset, where laws are amended or promulgated. This issue perhaps may be discussed when the time comes.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 17 November broadcasts a report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on Minister Arens' remarks at Tel Aviv University during a 17 November ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the death of Moshe Dayan. Menashe cites Arens as saying that the process of "bridging the gap between Israel and the Palestinians in the territories is taking place simultaneously with a similar process involving Israeli Arabs. The Palestinians in the territories have begun to adopt our way of thinking and life in a democratic society. To promote the process, we need patience, forbearance, and determination to reach peaceful conditions."]

Further Reaction to 'Ashrawi Prosecution Issue

Left Wing, Right Wing MK's React

TA1511194591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Palestinian activist Hanan 'Ashrawi says the police recommendation to prosecute her for allegedly meeting with the PLO is a small-minded move aimed at intimidating her. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Dr. 'Ashrawi said she would not be deterred by this move.

The attorney general has yet to indicate how he intends to respond to the police recommendation. [passage omitted]

In this report Mark Weiss sums up the charges and some of the initial reactions. [passage omitted]

Tehiya Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni has consistently urged the prosecution of Palestinian activists. He says nothing will come out of the police recommendation.

[Begin Ha'etzni recording] This is not the first time that complaints I filed against her and against al-Husayni and others have been transferred by the police to the Justice Ministry and to the attorney general with recommendation to prosecute, but it is ditched there invariably for political reasons. So, for me it is a nonevent. [end recording]

Shinuy MK Amnon Rubinstein says the attorney general can decide not to prosecute if he believes this is in the public interest. Rubinstein says the police recommendation proves the law must be changed.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] Well, I cannot blame the police. They have got this stupid law that they have got to enforce. But if their recommendation is carried out, Israel's image will suffer irreparable damage. This would be an absurdity, which no democratic society could contemplate. [end recording]

Labor's Avraham Burg says he is putting forward a Knesset bill that would offer immunity to any Palestinian involved in negotiations with Israel.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1807 GMT in a similar report notes that "in the police request to prosecute Hanan 'Ashrawi, Deputy Commander Sando Mazor, the head of the General Investigation branch, asks that it be considered whether there is any public interest in 'Ashrawi's prosecution in light of the current situation. The police recommendation angered MK's from the left-wing parties. The MK's told our Knesset correspondent that it was inconceivable that Israel prosecute someone with whom it was participating in political negotiations, adding that this step harmed the peace process. Right-wing MK's told our correspondent that the police recommendation merely complies with the rule of law."]

Olmert—Decision 'Impractical'

TA1611182991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Mr. Olmert, do you consider the recommendations by the Israeli police to prosecute Hanan 'Ashrawi for meeting with PLO officials to be appropriate or practical in light of the current situation?

[Olmert] The decision is wrong in the public sense and its timing is awry. I also find it impractical. It is the kind of thing that is said, but not done.

[Talmor] What kind of developments do you foresee in this matter?

[Olmert] Obviously the police bear no blame because they merely made the recommendation. The decision will be kicked upstairs to officials who have to apply broader considerations before reaching any decision.

[Talmor] The attorney general in other words. Do you think he will recommend against launching criminal proceedings.

[Olmert] I do not know who will make the recommendation. I assume that nothing will come of this in the end and, since nothing will happen anyway, it would have been better not to have announced the whole thing.

[Talmor] And what about the law itself, the law that bans such meetings?

[Olmert] Look, one of the reasons we did not want Hanan 'Ashrawi participating in the negotiations—after all, she was not a member of the delegation—was that to a great extent we identify her with the PLO. So what are you really saying? That she should be tried for meeting with herself? The law bars you from meeting with the PLO, but whether or not the PLO can meet with itself is a question that must also be addressed on the judicial level. [passage omitted]

Ministry Displeased With Recommendatons

TA1611200191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Sources at the Justice Ministry have expressed severe displeasure over reports that the police have ostensibly recommended the prosecution of Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, one of the senior Palestinian activists in the territories.

Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that State Attorney Dorit Beinisch will examine the case over the next few days, after which she will submit her recommendation to Attorney General Yosef Harish on whether to open legal proceedings against 'Ashrawi over her meetings with PLO officials.

Legal and political sources noted that the hasty reports in the media on this issue have already unnecessarily damaged Israel's image.

'Ashrawi—Bush Statement 'Encouraging'

TA1711120691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpt] About 30 representatives of the organization called the Israeli Women's Peace Net met in Ramallah this morning with Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian activist. In today's meeting with the Peace Net members, 'Ashrawi referred to the charges by the Israeli Police and President Bush's statement of concern.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] I am deeply touched, and I think it is very significant. I think it is not just a recognition of Hanan as an individual, but it is the Palestinian reality, and the Palestinian presence, and the Palestinian actions in Madrid. I feel that this is a recognition of the fact that Palestinians are being heard, that we do have rights, and—most importantly—we do have a human substance. And, I think, President Bush's statement is extremely encouraging and heartening, and I am deeply touched, and we are all appreciative. [end recording]

Among the Israeli women taking part were Ya'el Dayan, Zahirah Kamal, Professor Galya Golan of the Hebrew University, and [Knesset Member] Shulamit Aloni, head of the Citizens Rights Movement, who said she hoped charges would not be laid against 'Ashrawi, as it would be a silly move. [passage omitted]

Minister Rejects 'U.S. Objections'

TA1711155991 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Dan Margalit—live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Margalit] When examining the case of Hanan 'Ashrawi, will the attorney general take the U.S. objections—which are of a political nature and have no legal bearing—into consideration?

[Milo] I would not take the U.S. objections into consideration. Moreover, I was surprised by the criticism leveled at the Israeli police in light of the U.S. objections. Neither the U.S. president nor any other U.S. element can interfere with the legal considerations of the State of Israel or with the recommendations and actions of the Israeli police. That is totally inconceivable.

[Margalit] But they may have an impact on the advice that the ministers will give the attorney general.

[Milo] In my opinion, the attorney general's decisions cannot be influenced by U.S. elements or even by the U.S. president himself. The attorney general will have to make his decision based on relevant judicial considerations. These considerations are multifaceted and will have to be weighed very carefully. Anybody trying to introduce extraneous considerations or seeking the intervention of a foreign country will be wronging Israel's judicial system and the Israeli police. In any event, under no circumstances whatsoever will we take this into account. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Briefed on Investigation

TA1711120191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo said at this morning's cabinet meeting that the police have not recommended that Hanan 'Ashrawi be put on trial, and that in a document relayed to the state attorney's office, the police merely detailed the steps taken in connection with the complaint filed. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

Today's cabinet meeting was briefer than usual. For two hours, the ministers listened to gloomy reviews of the state of unemployment and addressed political and defense issues.

Several ministers referred to the police recommendation that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi be put on trial and the various reactions to that recommendation. Moledet Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi attacked President Bush's intervention in this matter, saying that the Americans ought to know Israel is not a protectorate.

The police minister and commissioner replied to ministers' questions on the subject. The police commissioner actually read out the document containing the police recommendation as it had been relayed to the state attorney's office. Apparently, the document did not state plainly that the police were recommending putting 'Ashrawi on trial; it merely contained a summary of the relevant inquiry results.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens was asked by the ministers about the plan to amplify self-rule in the Gaza Strip. Arens confirmed reports on the issue, stressing that they contained nothing new.

Also at the cabinet meeting today, the ministers approved the appointment of Dr. Yosef Hadas as the Foreign Ministry director general. Hadas has been the ministry's acting director general since the resignation of former Director General Re'uven Merhav.

Peres Says Labor Ready for Golan Compromise

TA1611172791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres tonight told a group of Labor Party hawks that within the context of peace he would agree to a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. Peres made a surprise appearance at a convention of Labor hawks in Ef'al, and our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres' statements regarding his readiness to reach a compromise on the

Golan Heights met with shouted protests from the participants. Shim'on Peres added that the Labor Party will not win the elections if it does not present a new agenda for the nation.

Our correspondent points out that the senior speakers at the convention—Rabin, Qeysar, Hilel, Dinitz, and Zisman—sought to modify the recommendations of the committee preparing the Labor Party convention to reflect more of the spirit of their own political viewpoints.

'Territorial Compromise' Proposed

TA1711065191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The committee planning the Labor Party's conference next week has completed its proposals regarding the Golan. It also made a series of recommendations to the party in the event the peace process is stalled. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

With all the haggling in Labor recently, you would think the party is in power. The party's committee made several proposals yesterday on negotiations with the Arabs on policy in the territories, all to be implemented when the party wins an election—some day.

The committee is proposing a middle of the road option for the party to adopt regarding the Golan. The proposal states that peace with Syria should be based on Security Council resolutions which envision territorial compromise in exchange for peace and security. No new settlement should be established in the Golan, the proposal states, but existing settlements can be expanded. Forty-four members of the committee supported the proposal and 36 were against. Party leader Shim'on Peres said last night that he would be ready to give back some of the Golan in exchange for peace with Syria. His remarks, made at a meeting of Labor hawks, met with protests. The committee discussed the possibility that the peace process would get stuck while Labor is in power. In that case, the committee proposes several unilateral measures: transferring power in the territories to local authorities and pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of Arab population centers. The proposals are something of a victory for the Labor doves who have threatened to leave Labor. They still must be approved by the party conference starting on Tuesday.

Rabin—Doves Must Accept 'Majority Rule'

TA1611164391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin said that it must be ascertained that the Labor Party's political platform will enable it to return to power. In his opinion, the Labor Party should speak with a clear voice, and the dovish minority must accept majority rule.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabin was speaking at a convention of Labor Party hawks this afternoon. Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar, Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz, and other officials participated in the meeting. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres also unexpectedly attended the convention.

Identity Mixup Blamed for UNIFIL-SLA Clash

TA1611061191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] One Irish UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] soldier and one South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier have been killed in a clash near the village of al-Tiri. A second Irish soldier was lightly wounded. A Qol Yisra'el reporter in the north says the incident took place after dark, when an SLA force spotted unidentified troops and opened fire on them. The Irish UN troops returned fire. Each side said it was unaware of the identity of the other. An SLA source says the Irish troop's vehicle did not bear the customary markings. UNIFIL is to hold an inquiry into the incident this morning.

IDF Initiates Meeting With UNIFIL

TA1611094091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] A meeting is currently under way in Rosh Haniqra between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] liaison officers and senior UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] officers to discuss the shooting incident in al-Tiri last night, during which a UNIFIL soldier and an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier were killed. The meeting was initiated by the IDF.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the UN soldier killed is Michael McCarthy from Ireland. His wife was notified of his death last night. The UN soldier who sustained serious leg injuries was operated on in the hospital in al-Naqurah. He is reportedly in stable condition now.

UNIFIL headquarters has reported that last night IDF and SLA artillery fired several shells at terrorist targets, mainly in the Shiite village of Kafrah.

Details of Incident Reported

TA1811093991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Nov 91 p 4

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Senior military sources yesterday denied news agencies' reports according to which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit "conquered a position north of the security zone."

Army sources said that the IDF continues routine defense activity inside the security zone, but no IDF force has been stationed north of the security zone.

Debriefings the SLA [South Lebanese Army] held yesterday indicate that the soldier who was killed on Friday was shot

and killed by UN troops and not by friendly fire. A UN soldier was killed in the same incident. Testimony collected in the debriefing indicate that, contrary to their original version, the UN soldiers did fire back at the SLA soldiers at the beginning of the incident near the village of al-Tiri, inside the security zone.

SLA sources said last night that they hope that in the future UN soldiers will follow the customary travel procedures in south Lebanon to avoid identity mixups and other regrettable incidents such as the one on Friday.

Legal Action Against Abie Nathan Postponed

TA1511195591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1807 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has decided to postpone taking legal measures against Abie Nathan over his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis approximately 18 months ago. Our legal affairs correspondent, Shlomo Arad, learned that a charge sheet was submitted against Abie Nathan, but his attorney, Pinhas Marinsky, claimed that the meeting had taken place within the context of a news conference. The attorney general today decided to suspend criminal proceedings and recall the charge sheet.

Unknown Group Claims Responsible for Negev Clashes

NC1711194591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization called the Forces of al al-Aqsa and the Guardians of the Dome of the Rock [quwwat al-aqsa wa hurras al-sakhrah] announced yesterday that four of its members were martyred in a clash with the Zionist forces in the Negev in southern Palestine.

The organization affirmed in a statement it issued that one of its groups operating inside the occupied territories attacked an enemy headquarters in the western Negev and clashed with the Zionists. Four of its members were martyred while a number of Zionists were killed and injured.

Cabinet Reshuffle Fails; Government 'Bogged Down'

Al-Masri Fails To Form Cabinet

JN1211104991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad: "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Efforts to form a broad-based government bogged down Monday, after a major parliamentary bloc declined an offer by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to rejoin his government in a proposed reshuffle before the regular session of Parliament reconvenes in December.

The refusal to rejoin a reshuffled or re-formed cabinet by the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), the umbrella organisation that groups most of the leftist-national groups, left the prime minister with the option of resigning or reshuffling the cabinet in partnership with the 18-member Constitution Bloc, which had asked Mr. al-Masri to set his sights on the broad-based coalition as a first option.

The Constitution Bloc, whose representatives met Mr. al-Masri yesterday, reported that the premier had told them he was unable to bring about a consensus among the different parliamentary blocs for a broad-based government, a source from the bloc said.

The bloc, the second largest in the House, has been vying for cabinet seats with Mr. al-Masri's government and the support of his National Parliamentary Bloc for their House speaker candidate, Dhuqan al-Hindawi.

In an earlier meeting with Mr. al-Masri and several of his ministers last week, a reconciliation between the two parties was in the works but the bloc made its participation conditional on a wider participation of parliamentary blocs in the government.

A statement issued by the Constitution Bloc said Monday the group had asked Mr. al-Masri to reshuffle his government with an eye on having a final makeup of "all parliamentary and national forces and organisations with a wide and stable parliamentary base."

The statement said that Mr. al-Masri had told the Constitution Bloc's representatives that his "consultations with the different parliamentary groups continued and that there was no final decision yet on a proposed reshuffle or re-formation of the government."

Mr. al-Masri's answer to the bloc Monday indicated, at least to some of the bloc's members, that his contacts with the Democratic Bloc and the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc had failed to convince them to participate or extend support in his government.

Some parliamentary sources speculated that Mr. al-Masri was also having problems with his own National Bloc over extending the base of his government to include more deputies from the same group, but several sources within the bloc confirmed that the "National Bloc will lend support to the premier under any and all circumstances."

The National Bloc sources denied that there was any conflict among its ranks and reiterated their stance in support of the government.

But problems within the ranks of the nine-member Democratic Bloc, which has been grappling with a political split inside its mother organisation JANDA as well as among its member deputies over the peace process, have been conveyed to the premier in a Sunday evening meeting.

The premier, according to parliamentary and JANDA sources, was informed Sunday evening that JANDA representatives can no longer remain in his cabinet. This decision was confirmed Monday in a JANDA meeting in which majority decision was adopted to pull out from Mr. al-Masri's government. JANDA has three ministers in Mr. al-Masri's government who are not members of the Lower House and could continue in their personal capacity if they wanted to. According to the sources, no final decision has yet been taken on whether this would also mean that the bloc would withdraw its confidence from the government.

Although Mr. al-Masri's government does not necessarily have to go through a confidence vote when the regular session of Parliament reconvenes in early December (unless ten deputies move a motion to that effect), the signing of a petition in October by 49 deputies withdrawing confidence from the al-Masri government has underlined the need to mend fences between Parliament and the government before parliament reconvenes.

The petition carried the signatures of the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood Bloc, the Constitution Bloc, independent Islamists and a few members of the Democratic Bloc.

With the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, and three independent Islamists, taking an ideological stand in opposition to Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the support of their stance by a few independents, many parliamentarians say that any government would have to deal with a basic formula which places around 35 parliament members in opposition to any government which would continue with the peace talks with Israel.

It was not clear what the next step would be, although the premier was reportedly losing patience with the different "unrealistic" conditions placed by the different parliamentary blocs approached by the premier.

The Democratic Bloc, according to sources, has placed conditions on the premier which would require "dropping the peace process with Israel, ignoring International Monetary Fund agreements with Jordan and allowing for wider public freedoms and democracy."

According to a cabinet member, JANDA members "should know that the decision to participate in the peace process is one of the pillars of Jordan's foreign policy and they should understand that Jordan has to

reach agreement with international lending agencies to reschedule its national debt."

Based on this (Jordan's) conditions are just another way of saying "we want out," the minister said.

The Constitution Bloc, which has not yet presented any specific conditions for its participation beyond its demand for a broadbased government, may still reach agreement with the premier "if more contacts and discussion took place between us and the government," according to one of their sources.

Several parliamentary sources contacted by the Jordan Times said Mr. al-Masri should not be dissuaded by the size of the opposition but rather he should "capitalise on the 45 votes which remain for any prime minister who seeks a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem."

These and other parliamentary sources say that although there is group opposition to the present government in Parliament, individual deputies from all groups want the prime minister to stay in office and many of them are privately encouraging him to do so.

Al-Masri Tenders Resignation

NC1611085291 Paris AFP in English 0818 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, Nov 16 (AFP) - The 25-member Jordanian government headed by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri offered its resignation Saturday to King Husayn, a government source said.

King Husayn had not yet accepted the resignation, but he would soon select a chief aide, Field Marshal Zayd Bin-Shakir, to head a new government, the source said.

Field Marshal Zayd Bin-Shakir would be asked to step in because al-Masri's efforts to reshuffle his government have apparently failed, parliamentary sources said earlier this week.

Al-Masri has had consultations with the heads of various parliamentary blocs over the past few days to seek their vote of confidence in a new government but the talks have foundered, the sources said.

The Jordanian premier told AFP this week he was considering a major government shake-up after 49 members of the 80-seat parliament signed a petition against him.

New Government To Be Announced 17 Nov

JN1611094391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 91 pp 1, 16

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, will today begin consultations with various parliamentary blocs and political forces to form a government that is expected to include representatives of different political trends.

The new ministerial formation is expected to be announced tomorrow after the completion of consultations today or tomorrow.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned from informed sources that the contacts and consultations that have been going on over the past few days have produced good results with regard to forming a government that enjoys national consensus.

It was also learned that a formula has been reached with the Islamic bloc (Muslim Brotherhood), which is the only parliamentary bloc that opposes the peace conference, whereby the movement will participate in the government either by joining it, or through some other formula that guarantees its support for the government.

A number of deputies have made efforts to convince the Muslim Brotherhood to participate in the government while reserving the right to oppose from within the government rather than outside it.

Over the past two weeks, several attempts have been made to secure a broad parliamentary base for the government of Tahir al- Masri.

Blocs Examine Supporting Government

JN1711073691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court, has launched intensive consultations with political leaders and parliamentary group representatives in an effort to form a new government after the resignation of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, informed sources said Saturday.

It was not immediately clear when an official announcement would be made over the appointment of al-Sharif Zayd as Prime Minister or when Mr. al-Masri would actually leave office. An official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, last night indicated only that the announcement of Mr. al-Masri's resignation would be made in the next few days. The statement did not name a successor to Mr. al-Masri.

"The decision was taken after an assessment of the internal domestic situation in Jordan in general and the cabinet situation in particular," according to the statement, which Petra said was issued by the Council of Ministers after a meeting Saturday.

Well-informed sources said that Mr. al-Masri officially resigned on Thursday and his government will continue to carry out its duties until al-Sharif Zayd finalises his cabinet.

The change in government was warranted by Mr. al-Masri's failed attempts to mend fences with parliamentary blocs before the reconvening of the regular session of Parliament in December.

Mr. al-Masri's differences with parliamentary blocs came to a feverish pitch after 49 parliamentarians signed a petition withdrawing confidence from the government last month. The petition, which constitutionally carries little weight, was signed by the 23 strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc, the 18-member Constitution Bloc and several independents and some Democratic Bloc members.

According to preliminary reactions from parliamentary blocs Saturday, a new government headed by al-Sharif Zayd will be able to win the support of a majority in Parliament with a possible toning down of opposition from the Brotherhood Bloc, which refused to join the al-Masri government.

The Brotherhood contends that it cannot be part of any government which will negotiate peace with Israel.

Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, told the Jordan Times Saturday that the fundamentalist movement remained opposed to peace talks with Israel but its tacit support or opposition to a al-Sharif Zayd government hinged on enchanced public freedoms.

Mr. al-Azayidah said he "did not rule out studying the option of (the Brotherhood) abstaining rather than voting against the new government" if the movement felt that the new government would strengthen public freedoms.

The Islamists have made no secret of their feeling that they were being targeted by the al-Masri government. They say that many of their supporters were detained and point out that at least two of their planned gatherings to voice opposition to the peace process were aborted and one of their publications was banned.

Public freedoms had "relapsed" under the government of Mr. al-Masri, Mr. al-Azayidah asserted. "We hope that on the internal level there would be an improvement, especially in public freedoms, which greatly relapsed under previous government," he said.

The issue of public freedoms, he added, "will carry a lot of weight in favour of" a al-Sharif Zayd government.

Mr. al-Azayidah said the Brotherhood "joining the government (of al-Sharif Zayd) is not on the cards" since the movement does not believe that there will be any change in Jordan's participation in the peace process.

The Muslim Brotherhood rejects any negotiation with Israel and refuses to accept a compromise solution over the occupied territories. It calls for the "total liberation of the land of Palestine"—the territory covered under the British mandate of Palestine.

If the Muslim Brotherhood decides to abstain from voting in a confidence session, the votes of its members would be considered as favourable to the government.

The spokesman for the Constitution Bloc, Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, said his bloc had not met yet to discuss the changes of government but said he expected that "all parliamentary blocs, except perhaps Muslim Brotherhood, would extend their support to al-Sharif Zayd."

Asked whether his bloc would make the same demands of this government that were made of Mr. al-Masri's, Mr. al-Mubayyidin said that he could only speak for himself but that "if I was not asked to join the government but was asked for a vote of confidence in al-Sharif Zayd I would give it."

The Constitution Bloc, ranking as the second largest bloc in the Lower House but lacking in political ideology, had demanded that Mr. al-Masri include them in his coalition government with a percentage similar to their weight in Parliament and had led the campaign against Mr. al-Masri in Parliament when they were excluded from a government reshuffle last month.

Sulayman 'Arar, the head of the 16-member National Bloc, of which Mr. al-Masri himself is member, said he met with al-Sharif Zayd Saturday but that he had not discussed his meeting with members of his bloc yet.

He said that al-Sharif Zayid had informed him that he was asked to form a government and that he was conducting consultations on the form of government.

Mr. 'Arar said it was "premature" to discuss whether his bloc will participate in al-Sharif Zayid's government until "further consultations" were held with the prime minister-designate.

Democratic Bloc members, who are split among themselves, said their decision was contingent on the government statement to be delivered by the prime minister in the regular session of parliament.

Al-Sharif Zayd, who holds the rank of field marshal, is a career military officer, served as commander in chief of the Armed Forces for over a decade before being named chief of Royal Court and special adviser to His Majesty King Husayn on military affairs.

Al-Sharif Zayd served as prime minister for an interim period of eight months in 1989, leading the country to general elections in November of that year and leaving the premiership in December to Mudar Badran.

Further on 'Escalatory Measures'

JN1711134591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that the government is in touch with the United States and the Soviet Union, as cosponsors of the peace conference, over recent Israeli escalatory measures and their negative implications for the peace process.

In statements to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Abu-Jabir said that the Knesset decision to exclude the occupied Syrian Golan Heights from the negotiating agenda, and intensified settlement activity, as well as the harassment of Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and the vehement rhetoric of Prime Minister Shamir and other Israeli officials, all run counter to

the framework underlying the peace process, including the Madrid conference and subsequent talks. Such behavior, he added, is an attempt to strip the peace process of its substance and thus abort it.

Jordan's delegates to the Arab League and the United Nations have been instructed to raise the issue in the interest of an Arab and international response and so that all parties involved shoulder their responsibility, reject such Israeli stubborn intransigence, and hold the Israeli Government accountable for the serious consequences that these practices hold for the peace process.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Abu-Jabir conferred in his office with the U.S. ambassador to Amman and asked him to convey to his administration the Jordanian Government's thoughts on the matter.

Palestinian Talks Delegate Notes Shamir Statements

JN1711192391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in Amman on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Mr. Faysal, what is the agenda for your visit to Amman, and will there be any changes in the composition of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this visit is aimed at continuing our coordination with the Jordanians, and at putting the final touches on the negotiating strategy for the coming phase. As for the change in the delegation's composition, you know that we are going to lengthy negotiations that have several dimensions. Therefore, in every meeting, new experiences and people may be brought in to cover certain points that cannot be covered by only 14 or 20 people. Consequently, there may be additions to the delegation and the number of people attending may be only 14, or even fewer. The number will be determined as needed.

[Dhiyab] What is your reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's statements that the settlements will not be included in the autonomy plan?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, we are not talking about autonomy. Mr. Shamir may think about something called autonomy, which he talks about. The invitation to attend the conference, which was extended to all parties, does not talk about autonomy. It talks about the transfer of power, a transitional phase to transfer power from the Israelis to Palestinians. The transfer of power cannot be made, in practical and real terms, with the continued settlement activities.

[Dhiyab] But how do you react to the steps Israel is taking?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, Israel now is trying to accelerate its steps in the direction of further settlement activities so as to gain more time in order to achieve two objectives: first, to have more settlements and settlers before they are prevented from continuing this process; and second, they are trying to sabotage the atmosphere that resulted from the Madrid conference. They are trying to negate all the progress that resulted from the Madrid conference. They are telling the Palestinian people that the conference was a mere ceremony that now is over, and that settlement activities will continue, murder will continue, the destruction of homes and the confiscation of land will continue, and the arrest of people without any justification will continue. They are trying to do all these things to make the people face a status quo that will take them back to the conditions that existed before the Madrid conference. For our part, we will insist that a new phase has begun and that the Israelis must respect the requirements of that phase.

Bush Should Make Shamir 'Open His Eyes'

JN1811094091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Nov 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Jordanian Diplomatic Move Deserves Arab Support"]

[Text] The large-scale Jordanian move to brief the influential countries on Israel's actions and settlement measures, and on the statements made by Shamir and his hardline Likud government leaders, is essential and indispensable.

Israel is defying the international community and the will of the countries and peoples that are working for the success of the peace process by continuing to construct settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yitzhaq Shamir ignored international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and he declared publicly upon his departure for the United States that Israel will not withdraw from a single inch of the occupied Arab territories!!

Moreover, Shamir's government is exercising pressures and undertaking provocative actions against members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. This confirms that this Israeli escalation will negatively reflect on the peace process and may actually paralyze and disrupt it.

Jordan, which is known for its initiatives and active and influential role, therefore had to put the international community, especially the big powers, in the picture concerning the Israeli escalation against the peace process, especially because U.S. President George Bush will meet with Shamir in Washington to discuss the hardline Israeli position and the impossible Israeli conditions that constitute a provocation of the Arab parties.

The large-scale Jordanian diplomatic move at the United Nations and in the international arena aims to expose

Israel's premeditated intentions against the peace process and to warn the international community, especially the cosponsors of the peace process, of the negative repercussions of the provocative Israeli escalation. It is a sound move dictated by Jordan's eagerness to ensure the success of the peace process.

We believe that this Jordanian move should be accompanied by similar Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, Egyptian, and other Arab moves within the framework of the coordination and integration of Arab positions.

We also believe that if the U.S. and Soviet Administrations as well as the EC remain silent over this Israeli escalation, which is largely detrimental to the peace process, then the Arab-Israeli negotiations may founder on the rock of Israeli intransigence and might be deadlocked.

Consequently, President Bush should make Shamir open his eyes and mind to the facts of the new age. President Bush should also force Shamir to reconsider his wrong calculations and review his positions which might blow up the entire peace process.

Only U.S. Pressure Can Stop Israeli Settlements

JN0611115391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Halting Settlement Construction Is an Urgent, Necessary Step"]

[Text] Despite Arab and international satisfaction with the results of the first round of peace negotiations in Madrid which were considered positive and encouraging, Shamir's government continues to challenge the international community by building more settlements in the occupied Arab territories and raising procedural difficulties aimed at exhausting time and effort.

Israel is deliberately inaugurating new settlements in the Golan and the West Bank during the peace negotiations in Madrid in open, provocative defiance of the Arab parties, the cosponsors of the peace process, and the entire international community.

Israel continues to shell southern Lebanese villages and force their inhabitants to evacuate, without heed for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's request to restore calm to the region.

All this indicate that Israel is not sincere with regard to the peace process and is carrying out provocative moves and malicious political maneuvers to abort it. If that is not the case, why then does Shamir's government speak about peace while it suppresses the marches of Arab citizens who raise olive branches and arrests scores of those who participated in these marches?

Shamir's government was forced to resume peace negotiations outside the Middle East because of U.S. pressure. This shows that only U.S. pressure can stop the construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

If President Bush's administration does not impose peace on Israel, the U.S. initiative will not succeed, Israel will not heed the desire of the international community, and it will never abide by the resolutions of the international community.

If the U.S. Administration wants the peace process to proceed in a serious manner, it should work without delay for an immediate halt to the construction of settlements.

The Arab parties, including the Palestinians, have accepted the U.S. initiative and the U.S. and Soviet patronage of the peace conference on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. The Arab parties went to the peace conference to negotiate the implementation of these resolutions and not to go around them.

As long as the construction of settlements is an illegal action that is condemned by the United Nations and rejected by the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Community, and the whole international community, then why this silence toward Israel's intransigent insistence on building more settlements?

We believe that leniency or unjustifiable flexibility toward this Israeli intransigence can never serve the peace process because its success or failure really depend on how far Israel is ready to go in accepting international legitimacy.

Israeli Golan Decision Attempt To Provoke Syria

JN1311095491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 91 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Why The Knesset Decision Was Made at This Particular Time"]

[Text] The Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the occupied Syrian Golan Heights a territory not subject to negotiations and an inseparable part of Israel, not to mention its call on the Israeli Government to encourage Jewish settlement activities, falls within the framework of the aggravating positions that Israel has continued to announce even before the peace process was launched in Madrid.

Although we realize that the Israeli Knesset decision does not in anyway change the status of the 1967-occupied Syrian Heights, we also understand why this decision was made at this particular time when the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict are preparing for starting the phase of bilateral talks that will be held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which means on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

Israel undoubtedly knows that with its continued occupation of the Golan Heights, there will not be any real possibility for progress on the path to peace with Syria, which, in this case, will not want to reach any peace with a usurping, occupying enemy that refuses to submit to UN and Security Council resolutions and publicly declares its position, which is based on the determination to maintain the occupation of others' territory by force.

Hence, we believe that the timing of this decision constitutes an ostentatious attempt to provoke Syria and force it to react in a way which Israel thinks would ultimately be in its interest. This also demonstrates its desire to project the most extreme Israeli negotiating position over the issue of the Syrian Golan Heights, and this, we think, is part of the tactical maneuvers that precede any potential process of negotiations.

In the face of this, we call on those in power to take a decisive international stand against such provocative Israeli policies. We also urge the cosponsors of the peace process to denounce such positions which can poison the Middle East political climate, encourage extremism and violence, and weaken the resolve to head toward peace. These are the points that Israel apparently wants to make from the beginning in the hope that these may succeed in undermining the weak ground on which the peace process is standing.

Everything that Israel does and announces, and all statements made by its leaders, are merely a desperate attempt to force the Arab side to take emotional, hardline positions which may portray the Arabs, and not only the Israelis, as extremists and unprepared for peace, which Israel wants to be humiliating and not based on any international point of reference. This makes us call, once again, to deny Israel that opportunity and to continue to push it into a corner and show it as the only party that seeks to obstruct the attainment of peace in the Middle East.

Israeli 'Political Terrorism' Opposes Peace Talks

JN1611110391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 91 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: " 'Ashrawi and the Israeli Political Terrorism"]

[Text] Not a day passes without Israel placing new obstacles before the Middle East peace talks and without it trying to raise side issues aimed at derailing the peace process and provoking negative Arab reactions.

The current Israeli strategy is based on political and military axes that aim at rejecting peace based on justice and the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, whether through the obstinate statements by Shamir and his rightist ministers, which reject withdrawal from the occupied territories and the land-for-peace principle, or through intensifying settlements to impose a fait accompli in face of negotiations, or through the military escalation in southern Lebanon and repression in the occupied Arab territories.

The latest in the series of Israeli obstacles is the threat of police harassment against Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, for her alleged contacts with the PLO, in an exposed attempt whose timing aims at inciting a negative Palestinian reaction toward peace, which seeks the realization of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

This measure constitutes political terrorism against the Palestinian negotiating team. It comes a few days before the resumption of the peace negotiations and before a decision has been made on their venue. It is not aimed at Mrs. 'Ashrawi as an effective member of the Palestinian delegation but rather at subjecting all members of the Palestinian delegation to pursuit and psychological terrorism. Also, it is an insult and challenge to the two cosponsors of the peace process and an offense against the whole international community.

It has become clear that the various and continued Israeli practices put the United States, the Soviet Union, and the international community vis-a-vis the moral and historic responsibility to salvage the current available peace opportunity from the Zionists' arrogance and open insistence to waste this opportunity through derailing the peace process from its course, inciting Arab reactions that torpedo the whole process, and driving the region back again to the cycle of violence and instability.

Israel's continued violations and challenges of the U.S. and Soviet guarantees and the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy necessitate that the United States in particular and the entire international community in general end their silence and timid denunciation of these practices and take a stand that prevents Israel from destroying all that has been achieved along the road to peace and from realizing its aggressive expansionist objectives.

The question of Hanan 'Ashrawi lies within the series of dangerous Israeli practices that should be stopped before they go further and wipe out any hope of peace.

Syria's al-Shar' To Visit in 'Next Few Days'

JN1511180691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Informed sources have affirmed to our radio station that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will pay a working visit to Jordan in the next few days. This will be his first visit in almost two years; al-Shar' has not come to Jordan since January 1990.

The sources noted that al-Shar' will hold talks with Jordanian officials, particularly his counterpart Kamil Abu-Jabir, on the coordination of stands prior to the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks scheduled to be held before the end of this month.

The same sources did not rule out the possibility that PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi will join the Jordanian-Syrian talks. Qaddumi has proposed the holding of a Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian meeting. These contacts seek both to unify positions before bilateral talks with Israel are resumed and to reach an agreement on multilateral talks. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Intentions' To Attack Libya Criticized

JN1611133591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Beware of Aggression Against Sisterly Libya"]

[Text] It seems that there are premeditated U.S. intentions against sisterly Libya. It also seems that there is an attempt to fabricate an issue that would eventually lead to an act of military aggression against Libya. The "Lockerbie" issue may be the detonator of a new explosion in the region.

If the U.S. Administration is consulting with its Western allies on launching a military action against Libya, then the peace process may be buried at its very start.

Libya has unequivocally denied any connection with the issue, but the American and Western political circles insist on leveling charges against Libya as a new pretext to justify launching a military attack against it.

The United States has carried out military operations against Libya more than once on the charge of practicing terrorism, although the terrorism which Israel is practicing in the occupied Arab territories and in the Arab region is well known to all countries and peoples of the world, including the United States itself.

The terrorist policy of the racist regime in South Africa, which killed tens of thousands of African citizens, and its policy against the neighboring African states are better known to the U.S. Administration than to anyone. Nevertheless, the racist regime of Pretoria has not faced military action or even a deterring measure from the United States and its allies.

We are worried that the "Lockerbie" case is a fabrication that is aimed to distract international attention from the peace process that seeks an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially because any American military action against sisterly Libya would certainly torpedo the peace process from its roots.

Opening old files against Libya to fabricate pretexts that justify the aggression against it would never serve peace, security, and stability in the region.

We warn that under all circumstances, the Arab nation will not remain silent toward any American aggression against its sons in Libya. We warn that an act of aggression against Libya may drive the region to new sufferings, catastrophes, and devastating wars that will not be restricted to Libya alone.

Moreover, we may be led to believe that the U.S. peace initiative is no more than an attempt to anesthetize the Arab nation and strike at its states and peoples one after another, especially as Israel is still planting mines on the path of the peace process so as to blow it up it at its roots.

Islamic Jihad Announces Waite, Sutherland Released

NC1811121091 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov 18 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad on Monday announced the release of British hostage Terry Waite and U.S. college professor Thomas Sutherland.

"We announce today the release of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland," a brief statement by the pro-Iranian group said at midday.

The text suggested that the two men had already been set free.

The statement was authenticated by a photograph of another Western hostage, U.S. journalist Terry Anderson.

It said that the release of Waite and Sutherland was aimed at "completing what we have started with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar."

Waite, an envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury who was kidnapped January 19, 1987, is the last British hostage held in Lebanon. Sutherland was abducted June 9, 1985. Three other Americans, an Italian and two Germans are also being held.

Text of Islamic Jihad Statement

NC1811125391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] AFP has carried the verbatim text of the Islamic Jihad Organization's statement announcing the release of British hostage Terry Waite and U.S. hostage Thomas Sutherland. The statement said: To complete what we have started with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, we announce today the release of: 1. Terry Waite. 2. Thomas Sutherland. [signed] The Islamic Jihad Organization, November 1991.

Iranian Charge Briefs Buwayz

NC1811143091 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov 18 (AFP)—Iran informed Lebanon Monday of the "decision to liberate" two Western hostages, a reliable source said after the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad announced the release of Briton Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh told Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the morning there had been a "decision to liberate" two of the eight Western hostages held in Lebanon, the source said.

Buwayz appeared to confirm the release, telling AFP the "double liberation is the result of wise and humanitarian policies."

"We hope that this will pave the way for the release of all the hostages in a very near future," Buwayz said.

"Lebanon, which is the first victim of the hostage ordeal, has paid a heavy price on the economic, political, national and security levels," he said.

Buwayz also said Lebanon was "happy with this initiative and would like to congratulate the families of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland."

At midday, in a statement to a Western news agency, the pro-Iranian group said: "To complete what we have started with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, we announce today (Monday) the release of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland."

Buwayz urged the relatives of three other Americans, two Germans and an Italian still detained in Lebanon to "be patient and keep hoping that they will be set free soon."

There has been no independent confirmation of the Islamic Jihad announcement but a Syrian security source in Lebanon said the statement was "positive".

Waite, 52, is the last British hostage held in Lebanon. He was kidnapped on January 20, 1987, while on a mission for the Anglican Church to seek the release of Western captives.

Sutherland, 60, was seized by the Islamic Jihad on June 9, 1985, three years after he settled in the country where he was dean of agronomy at the American University of Beirut.

Syrian Source: Release Not Confirmed

NC1811144991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] A Syrian security source has emphasized that he still does not have official confirmation of the release of British hostage Terry Waite and American hostage Thomas Suherland.

In an interview with AFP, the source said the atmosphere is positive but (?we do not have) the time of their release.

'Revolutionary Brigades' Claim Pan Am Bombing

NC1611180091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1733 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The Arab Revolutionary Brigades for the External Sphere- Lebanon Branch [al-alwiyah al-thawriyah al-'arabiyah li al-majal al-khariji far' lubnan] has claimed responsibility for bombing the U.S. airliner in 1988. The statement said:

Following the utter failure of the U.S. Administration to bring our Arab people to their knees and involving them in solutions of capitulation and liquidation in Madrid conference, under pressure from the Zionist lobby, the administration of Bush and its allies today came up with a scandalous accusation against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, charging it of bombing the Pan Am passenger plane in 1988, hoping by this charge to justify and escalate its aggression against the Arab people, after striking at Iraq, and to take on and

finish off Arab countries one-by-one as part of a well-planned Western design aiming at subjugating the countries of steadfastness and confrontation.

Therefore, we in the Arab Revolutionary Brigades declare our responsibility for destroying the American plane. We have sufficient proof and ample information about this reprisal operation. Let America and its Western devils know that our hands will reach them wherever they may be and that they will not escape the punishment of our people and honorable men.

Karami Denies U.S. Offer To Strike Hizballah

NC1711075991 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said: We cannot give the Israelis security until after they have withdrawn from southern Lebanon. We cannot stop resistance operations until the Israelis have withdrawn from the internationally recognized borders of Lebanon. He added: As long as the Israelis remain on one inch of our territory, we have a legitimate right as enshrined in UN laws to resist to liberate our land. He denied the existence of a U.S. proposal to strike at Hizballah in return for Israeli withdrawal from Jazzin.

Hizballah Warns Against 'Surrender'

NC1711125191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah has warned the government and Lebanese officials against engaging in deals with Israel under a U.S. plan on Jazzin or other areas, because dealing with Lebanon's problem with the Israeli occupation separately under the theme of recovering Jazzin means accepting the Israeli presence in the occupied strip and readiness to make further concessions in the future.

In an interview with the Voice of the People Radio, Shaykh Husayn Khalil, head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, advised, in his words, everyone without exception not to (?dare) surrender to the U.S. proposals on the south and Resolution 425. He said resistance is not as easy prey as some imagine.

He disclosed to our radio that Hizballah has received confirmation that the United States proposed to the Lebanese delegation on the sidelines of the Madrid conference to disarm the resistance in exchange for Jazzin. He said that Jazzin is poisonous honey presented to the Lebanese Government. He announced Hizballah's rejection of any overt military appearance or presence of all resistance factions in the liberated areas [sentence as heard].

Amal: Israeli Raids Forcing Massive Exodus

NC1411210891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] The Amal Movement's Political Bureau has noted that the Israeli acts of aggression against the south, involving air bombardment of large areas and threats against civilians to force them to flee in great waves, indicate the Israeli intentions not only toward Lebanon, but also toward the entire region.

Attorney Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader and minister of state, chaired a regular meeting of the movement's Political Bureau today to review the political developments, with emphasis on the situation in the south and the increasing Israeli aggressions against its territories and people.

Irish Soldier Killed in UNIFIL-Israeli Clash

NC1511203791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] An Irish soldier in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was killed and another [as heard] reported missing when their armored vehicle came under gunfire.

Security sources in the south said that the Irish UNIFIL contingent clashed with Israeli soldiers as they attempted to enter the town of Haddathah this evening.

The towns of Yatar, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddathah, and Bra'shit came under violent shelling from the Israeli Army positions in the security zone shortly after 1800 this evening.

It has been learned that over 200 shells landed on these towns.

Missing Troops Returned to UNIFIL

NC1511221691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] A report from the south said that the two missing soldiers were returned to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] by the agent Lahd's command last night [15 November] after the pro-Israeli militias opened fire on an Irish armored vehicle carrying three Irish soldiers. One of them was killed and the two others, one of whom was badly injured, were captured.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reported that UNIFIL is investigating the incident and its spokesman Timor Goksel will issue a statement concerning it.

UN Protests Irish Soldier's Death

NC1611182091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The United Nations has protested to Israel over the killing of an Irish soldier serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in the al-Tiri-Haddathah incident yesterday. UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that the Israeli justification for what happened was not at all convincing.

The Irish Army issued a statement in Dublin asking the United Nations to conduct a prompt investigation of the incident. [passage omitted]

Israeli Sorties Over South Reported

NC1511213691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes continued their sorties over the south tonight. They dropped a number of flares over al-Nabatiyah and Tyre areas.

SLA Soldier Killed Near Haddathah

NC1611062991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The situation in the south—where Israeli shelling of several villges in Tyre, al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Western al-Biqa' have increased amid increasing Hizballah attacks on Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions—remains tense.

An UN Interim Force In Lebanon [UNIFIL] unit was fired on and an Irish soldier was killed and another wounded. An SLA soldier was killed and another wounded near Haddathah. [passage omitted]

An Israeli unit clashed with fundamentalist gunmen in the woods of Rshaf as they were trying to enter the border strip area. The result of the clash is not yet known.

Tension in South; Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC1611181291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in large areas of the south following last night's ferocious bombardment of western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly in the townships of Haddathah and Maydun.

In another development in the south, our radio has received an exclusive report that a clash erupted at approximately 1700 today between Amal Movement and Hizballah members in Sahtah village near al-Nabatiyah. The fighting was continuing at the time of this newscast.

The report added that a unit of the Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade intervened shortly after the clash began in order to contain the fighting.

There also was tension in Burj al-Shamali after Hizballah members carried out movements in the area. This came in the wake of the Army's raid two days ago on Hizballah official Hasan Surur's residence. The Army detained him for interrogation and subsequently released him.

'Wide-Scale' Israeli-Lahd Deployment

NC1611093091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Reports from the south indicate wide-scale deployment and movements by the Israeli occupation army and the agent militia in the border-strip areas. The agent Lahd militia has closed all crossing points between the occupied border strip and the liberated areas.

Intensive contacts are expected to take place between Beirut and Damascus during the weekend to find ways to deal with the continuing Israeli escalation in the south.

Warplanes Overfly Sidon

NC1711120491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Our correspondent in the central sector of southern Lebanon reported that the hills and eastern areas of Kafr Rumman this morning came under heavy-caliber machine gun fire for well over one hour originating from the Israeli occupation forces positions on the (?Thurrah) and (al-Dabkah) hills.

Israeli warplanes have been flying over the Sidon area up to Iqlim al-Tuffah at low altitiude since 1300 today.

Israelis Deploy Beyond 'Security Zone'

NC1711102791 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Nov 17 (AFP)—An Israeli Army patrol on Sunday moved one and a half kilometers (one mile) outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, local security sources said.

They said 20 soldiers backed by three armored vehicles left their posts in Kawkaba in the zone's eastern sector and redeployed on Jabal al-Ahmar hillside overlooking a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim group Hizballah.

The Israelis were still deployed in the area five hours later, with soldiers surveying the region through binoculars and camouflaging their vehicles with branches, the sources said.

The Israeli Army regularly conducts incursions into areas bordering the "security zone."

On Friday, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), which also operates in the zone, clashed with United Nations peacekeeping forces, killing an Irish soldier and wounding another. Two SLA fighters were also killed.

Birri Departs for Damascus Consultations on South

NC1611065791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri has left for Damascus to consult with a number of Syrain officials on current developments and the situation in the south.

Army Group Storms Shaykh's Home, Arrests Son

NC1511082491 Ba'labakk Lebanon Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] A Lebanese Army group stormed the home of Shaykh Husayn Surur in Burj al-Shamali. It forcibly entered his home without justification and verbally assaulted and insulted his wife and threatened to arrest

her. The group also arrested his son Shaykh 'Ali and damaged the shaykh's property.

In the wake of the incident, the Jabal 'Amil ulema committee met and discussed this assault on religious leaders. It issued a statement, asking the Lebanese public to stand by their mujahidin ulema who are the impregnable bastions of this homeland.

Shaykh Released 16 Nov

NC1611134691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] In Burj al-Shamali today, the Lebanese Army released Hizballah's Shaykh Hasan Surur who was arrested two days ago for questioning.

Hizballah of Palestine Claims Israeli Soldier Held

NC1711105391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah of Palestine has issued a statement in response to the false claims by the Israeli military spokesman who denied that an enemy soldier had been captured.

In its statement, which is accompanied by documents, Hizballah of Palestine repeats that an Israeli soldier has been captured. The party refuses to give more information about the prisoner until the Israeli spokesman admits the soldier has indeed been captured and submits to our previously stated demands, the statement added.

Ba'th Party Nominates al-Asad for New Term

JN1611203591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Nov 91

["Text" of letter to the People's Assembly by the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as read by the People's Assembly secretary in Damascus on 16 November; date of letter not given—recorded]

[Text] Speaker of the People's Assembly: Greetings. The term of the president of the Republic ends on 12 March 1992. Pursuant to Article 84 of the Constitution, the Regional Command met on 11 November 1991 and unanimously decided to nominate the comrade secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, leader Hafiz al-Asad, for a new constitutional term. By this decision, the Regional Commmand is responding to a comprehensive popular consensus in support of his outstanding leadership, affirming the historic role he played in leading our people's march toward reconstruction and liberation. The historic leadership of the leader president—with its farsighted vision, renowned courage, and known wisdom—has enabled him to lead Syria through the most difficult of circumstances; to achieve economic, social, and cultural development; and to promote the country's private capabilities. This has made it possible for Syria to play a historic role in leading the Arab struggle and confronting the fateful challenges—foremost of which is the challenge of the Zionist aggression—by defending the causes of the Arab nation, boosting the Arab nation's steadfastness, and spotlighting its issues.

The construction of a modern, stable, and prosperous Syria, whose sons contribute to the building of their future, each in his own way and according to his own potential, was achieved thanks to the leader who dedicated himself, at every hour and every moment, to his people and nation. Our people—men, women, youths, the elderly, and children—appreciate the historic leadership of the leader president, who lives in their hearts and minds. They realize the country's need for a continuation of his leadership during the current difficult and fateful circumstances. Difficult and complicated stages through which a nation encounters hardships need great men to lead it in the face of dangers. Leader President Hafiz al-Asad is the helmsman in a stormy sea.

Responding to the feelings and aspirations of the citizens and their loyalty to their leader, the Regional Command has decided to nominate leader President Hafiz al-Asad in confirmation of the following aims, principles, and objectives:

1. To bolster the democratic march by bolstering the role played by the democratic institutions elected by the people, to stress the political pluralism launched by leader Hafiz al-Asad on 16 November 1960, and to organize the masses in popular organizations and professional associations.

2. To continue to work in the fields of cultural, economic, and social development in order to achieve economic prosperity, to raise the citizens' standard of living, to provide job opportunities, and to secure the widest possible participation by citizens in economic development within the framework of the economic pluralism existing in the country.

3. To strengthen Syria's potential, including that of defense, and to continue to work for the sake of liberating the occupied Arab territories and restoring the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

Speaker of the People's Assembly, by nominating leader President Hafiz al-Asad for another constitutional term, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command is responding to our people's aspirations and to the dictates of the historic phase through which Syria and the Arab nation are passing. This nation believes that President Hafiz al-Asad is a leader who is loyal to his people, faithful to his nation, wise in making decisions, and courageous in defending and applying them; a leader who is lenient and sympathetic to his people and strong and resolute in the face of his nation's enemies.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command urges you to present its nomination to the People's Assembly. If our nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad is approved by the honorable People's Assembly members, then we ask you to fix a date for the plebiscite on the post of the president of the Republic in accordance with the clauses of the Constitution.

Immortality to our message.

[Signed] The Regional Command

Assembly Resolution Approves Nomination

JN1711161291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1444 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Resolution by the People's Assembly approving the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for a new seven-year constitutional term; read by the Assembly secretary in Damascus—live]

[Text] People's Assembly Resolution Approving the Proposal of the Command and the Decision of the Special Committee Endorsing the Nomination and Presenting it to the Citizens.

Taking cognizance of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command's decision, which proposes the nomination of struggling comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as president of the Republic for a new constitutional presidential term beginning 13 March 1992, for seven years on the Gregorian calender, and also taking cognizance of the decision of the special committee set up by the decision of the Assembly's Bureau, the People's Assembly has decided to approve the nomination of struggling comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as president of the Syrian Arab Republic for a new

constitutional presidential term, lasting seven years, effective 13 March 1992, and putting this nomination up for a public referendum.

Al-Asad Addresses Message to Working Class

JN1511200291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Nov 91

["Message of love and appreciation" from President Hafiz al-Asad to the working class of Syria "at the end of the National Work Day to mark the 21st anniversary of the Corrective Movement"—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved sons and daughters of the working class: As I extend my heartfelt greetings to you, I also extend my hand to shake hands with you and to bless your efforts. A week of economic contests, joined by all segments of the public sector, followed by a national work day in which all of you participated, has concluded.

By applying yourselves to these activities, you have demonstrated the concern of the working class to place communal interests above those of the individual and the interests of the homeland above all other interests. Your increased fruitful work has boosted production and reinforced the potential of the homeland in all fields.

It is the dignity and advancement of the homeland that you are promoting. It is for Syria's pride and steadfastness that you are working. You have made it an article of faith that work be the honor of life. It is with dedicated efforts that the homeland will scale heights, prevail over difficulties, and improve its ability to tackle the challenges of the age. Your mental and physical exertions should enable us to attain further development and prosperity.

You have always pledged yourselves to a frontline position in the drive to build the homeland. Since the dawn of the Corrective Movement, you have consolidated your position at the forefront. You have done your part in defending the homeland and in protecting your gains and those of the people. Led by your trade union organization—the Trade Unions General Federation—over the past 21 years, you have made such efforts and taken such stands that make all of us rightly proud.

We in Syria, brothers and sisters and sons and daughters, stand up, as ever, for the rights of our Arab nation and make every effort in the pursuit of the goals of the nation.

Our march has never been anything but a march of good in the full sense of this word, a march of right and justice in the full sense of these two words, and a march of peace, which means good, right, and justice.

We are pursuing the path of peace seriously and without any suspicion. We are working sincerely to bring about peace in our region—a peace that corrects matters and gives right to its rightful owners, a peace that is free from all forms of deception and treachery, and a peace that can put an end to occupation and aggression.

We are pursuing this path, realizing, at the same time, that we face an enemy that is proposing a worthless concept of peace, a concept overflowing with goals of aggression and expansion.

The word peace is viewed by Israel's rulers as a false commodity, a commodity which they have exploited for a long time. When the time came for testing it, however, the deception and treachery were exposed and Israel's rulers failed the test, not only in our view but in the view of the entire world as well. Therefore, people throughout the world saw those who used to cry and falsely pretend to be seeking peace as sworn enemies of peace and a major obstacle to it.

While we expect world public opinion, nations, and governments to monitor and judge and then to issue a fair judgment supporting right, we have no doubt that the battle of peace we are waging is part of our struggle against aggression and occupation. We know that one of the major requirements of the battle is for us to wage it strongly and to mobilize our spiritual, moral, and material strength in a way that enables us to continue to struggle successfully to achieve our goal of a just and comprehensive peace.

Our strength comes from our free will, from our determination, and from our work and effort. You play an important role in promoting and reinforcing this strength, an important role you are playing honestly.

Blessed be your efforts. Let us continue our struggle and enjoy the results of our struggle to create a brilliant and secure future for our nation's generations.

Qaddah Addresses Rally on Corrective Movement

JN1611175091 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1453 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Speech by Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a Damascus speech rally to mark the 21st anniversary of President Hafiz al-Asad's Corrective Movement—live]

[Excerpts] Sisters, brothers, comrades; our struggling masses: The glorious Corrective Movement launched on 16 November 1970 was not a transitory one for change in Syria's history. It was a prominent, qualitative event and a policy for comprehensive change based on the principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Arab nation's goals, and a clear understanding of the movement of history. [passage omitted]

Comrades and brothers: The glorious Corrective Movement is a pioneer pan-Arab march led by the great national leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad. [applause and chants] Since its birth, it has been a pure pan-Arab trend, a persistent struggle to achieve Arab unity, a perpetual effort to establish the broadest possible Arab solidarity and promote the formulas of joint Arab action, and an honest and sincere call to renounce peripheral differences and marginal conflicts and direct all efforts and

mobilize all Arab energies and potential toward the principal issues in the arena of conflict with the Zionist enemy. Pan-Arab interest is our goal, and it is the highest interest. Our eyes are always focused on the Zionist enemy, which is targeting our land and destiny.

Hence, our pan-Arab positions have always been right. Events have proved them to be sound and correct. We condemned the Iraq-Iran war and held the Iraqi regime responsible for its eruption and continuation. We clearly and accurately defined its disastrous impact on and destructive dangers to the causes of the Arab struggle. Events and time have proved this to be so and everyone has recognized it.

In fraternal Lebanon, the position adopted has been a brotherly one in terms of salvation and history. Through its shrewd pan-Arab vision, Syria has realized the true dimensions of the serious Zionist design to partition Lebanon. Syria extended a hand of assistance and help to our brothers in Lebanon, and our generous people and valiant Army made massive sacrifices, foiling the objectives of the Zionist conspiracy. The capitulatory agreement with the Israeli enemy was also undermined. Unity, accord, and peace were restored in the fraternal country under a constitutional legitimacy and a Treaty of Brotherhood, Coordination, and Cooperation between Syria and Lebanon that constituted a pan-Arab victory and an objective reply to hegemonist and partitionist designs.

In the Gulf, our position was a pioneer pan-Arab one. Since the first days of Saddam Husayn's heinous invasion of Kuwait, we sensed the catastrophic perils and the destructive impact of this pan-Arab crime on our people in Iraq and Kuwait and on our Arab nation. We also sensed the losses it caused to the pan-Arab struggle and the gains it provided for the Zionist enemy. Arab Syria, under the historic leadership of the comrade secretary general of the Ba'th Party, has turned into an impregnable pan-Arab fortress [applause] encompassing Arab aspirations, epitomizing pan-Arab goals, safeguarding principles and the constant fundamentals, and waging a perpetual struggle to liberate the land and restore rights. Since the beginning of the Corrective Movement, therefore, Syria has worked to prepare for the war of liberation and to build and prepare our heroic ideological army to be an army for pan-Arab missions and historic responsibility. The liberation October War and the battles of the Golan Heights and Mount Hermon were a proud moment in the history of the Arabs and a contemporary epic for liberating their land and restoring their rights.

Syria's role was, and will continue to be, a pioneering one, defending the causes of the Arab nation, especially the central pan-Arab cause—the Arab-Israeli conflict. Palestine is the essence of our struggle, the center of our action, our primary issue. Hence, Syria has firmly supported the Palestinian Arab people, made massive sacrifices, and bore the burden of confronting the Israeli enemy. It provided all possible means of support and backing for those launching the intifadah and resistance in the occupied Arab territories, those waging a just struggle for liberation. At the same time, every effort is being made to support the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied Golan and their resistance to the sinful occupation. The liberation of our occupied land in the Golan is a central and primary objective of our struggle. Greetings to our heroic kinfolk in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. [applause and cheers] Greetings to our valiant brothers in Palestine and southern Lebanon. [applause]

Comrades and brothers: Under all conditions and at all times, the comrade secretary general of the party, leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], is the hero of pan-Arab liberation, the struggler for the sake of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and the defender of those territories. He fights by all available means and with all arms, and he adheres to the firm, principled, pan-Arab position to liberate the land and restore rights. He holds the Arab cause as a trust in his mind and heart and a brandished sword in his hand, invoking the ancient heroes of the nation and the great people of history. It is a matter of knighthood during war and heroism during peace. In both cases, however, he is the hero of the pan-Arab right.

In the message of love and appreciation which the comrade secretary general of the party, struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad [applause], addressed to the working class in Syria at the conclusion of the week of economic competition and the day of national work staged by the brother workers to mark the 21st anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, he stressed that we are marching on the road of peace with pure sincerity, and that we are working sincerely so that peace will prevail in our region, realizing at the same time that we face an enemy whose concept of peace is despicable and rife with aggression and expansionist objectives. If we expect world public opinion, people, and governments to watch, to make fair judgments, and to support justice, then we have no doubts that the peace battle we are waging is part of our struggle against aggression and occupation, and that a fundamental requirement of this battle is that we should wage it firmly, armed with spiritual, moral, and material force so that we can continue the struggle successfully until we realize our objective of a just and comprehensive peace. This is Syria's decision, and this is its position. It is either a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights and lands, or no peace or stability at all. Our nation never surrendered in the past, and it will not surrender in the future. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Meets With Austrian Defense Minister

JN1211194991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Nov (SANA)—At 1800 today Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Austrian National Defense Minister Werner Fasslabend. The Austrian ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

They talked about the situation in the region, the peace process, and Israel's obstruction of the process through its repeated rejection of international legitimacy and the

bases of peace and through its insistence on the continued occupation of the Arab territories and denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The visiting minister paid tribute to Syria's positions and stressed that the global community supports the implementation of UN resolutions.

Commentaries View Effects of Israeli Shelling

Effort 'Missed the Target'

JN1211081991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Aggression Has Missed the Target," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The savage Israeli shelling of south Lebanese villages and towns has continued. A number of innocent citizens fell yesterday as martyrs and wounded. As for the agent Lahd militia, it has stepped up the destruction of homes and property and the damage of farms. Meanwhile, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Zionist activities in Lebanon, declared that Israel will stay in southern Lebanon and is not considering withdrawing its troops from the area.

TISHRIN adds: It is clear that the treacherous Israeli acts, which have continued over the past two weeks, are part of efforts to apply pressure on the Lebanese Government in a bid to make it change its position, which demands the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and an unconditional withdrawal of the invading Israeli troops from the area. Similarly, these acts are part of efforts to sabotage peace efforts and make the regional situation explode. It is noteworthy that the enemy government had said, in official statements, that Israeli troops would withdraw from southern Lebanon once a strong Lebanese Government is installed and also once the Lebanese Army assumes its security tasks. All world states have acknowledged, with great satisfaction, that the Lebanese Government has managed to bring about security and peace, disband militias, restore stability to the country, and unify the army. Likewise, they acknowledged that this army managed to impose its authority and prestige and eliminate all abnormal and illegal phenomena.

However, Israel was the only party in the world which expressed its dissatisfaction with and indignation over Lebanon's recovery, restoration of unity, and the achievement of accord among its citizens. It used force to prevent the Lebanese Army from completing its control over various areas in southern Lebanon. Not only this, but Israel has repeatedly shelled the Lebanese Army forces deployed in southern Lebanon, contending in public that it would not withdraw from Lebanon before the installation of a strong Lebanese Government.

The paper adds: We would like to note here that the savage Israeli shelling coincided with the convocation of the Madrid conference and noticeably escalated during the days of the conference, as if the treacherous Zionist shells were meant to carry a message to the Lebanese Government asking it to disengage from Arab issues and make haste in declaring its surrender to Israeli conditions. However, the Israeli aggression has, in effect, reinforced the Lebanese Government's determination to forge ahead with its redemptive and unity-oriented march, demanding with stronger resolve the implementation of Resolution 425 to make Israel unconditionally withdraw from occupied southern Lebanon. Lebanon has continued to oppose any dealing with Israel's agents in southern Lebanon. It is determined to continue to cooperate with its Arab environment, especially with Syria, with which Lebanon is linked through ties of blood and kinship, ties which are far stronger than the provisions contained in the brotherhood and cooperation treaty concluded between the two twin countries.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Israel has undoubtedly missed its target when it aggressed on southern Lebanon. Syria and Lebanon are one people, and will remain so. Likewise, their positions will remain identical. Moreover, Syria will remain, as it has always been in the past, a true support for Lebanon, defending it with all strength, firmness, and determination.

Talks 'Impossible' Without Withdrawal Pledge

JN0911154491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The world is watching with deep concern the developments in southern Lebanon, where Israel has continued to shell towns and villages and destroy the property of innocent civilians for the 12th consecutive day. Several countries have called upon the enemy government to stop its brutal attacks, to halt the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, to abandon the spirit of aggression, and to adopt a constructive policy that rises to the level of the peace conference and facilitates the resumption of negotiations expected in the coming few days.

The world in general, and the international circles directly concerned with pushing the peace process forward in particular, fear the evil intentions of the Shamir government. The Madrid conference was possible only after painstaking efforts made over several months. The Israeli delegation to the conference showed no flexibility or compliance with the requirements of peace. Indeed, it disappointed many sides because it deliberately created further obstacles at the opening sessions.

The entire world was expecting from Israel a position measuring up to humanity's ambitions of relaxation and detente as steps toward comprehensive peace—a position such as halting settlement building and pledging to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The world was strongly shocked, however, when Yitzhaq Shamir devoted his first speech to talking about the land of his

ancestors and to presenting a series of historical falsehoods, and when he devoted his second speech to attacking Syria and accusing the Arabs of aggressing upon Israel's alleged land of the Torah.

Peace in the Middle East, and the settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict—which is the world's most volatile, complicated, and explosive issue—cannot be achieved amid the echo of bombs and the scenes of destroyed villages and Palestinian camps. Peace cannot be achieved amid the flagrant provocative campaigns accompanying the settlement activity, as happened recently in the occupied Golan when three Israeli ministers, at the personal instruction of Yitzhaq Shamir, challenged Syria by explicitly announcing that the Golan will remain under Zionist control and that keeping the Golan and other Arab lands is much more important than peace.

Furthermore, the next stage of the peace conference, which, according to some uncertain reports, may be held in Washington or any neutral capital in Europe, is critical and sensitive, and the future of the Middle East depends on its results. In this second round, the bilateral talks will concentrate on the principles of a lasting and just settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict and the bases for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. If the Israeli Government evaded implementing these resolutions during the first stage of the peace conference, it cannot escape this time. It will be impossible to move to the third stage, which concerns water, environment, refugees, compensation, and other issues, without an explicit Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

For its part, Syria has explained that it will not participate in these talks before receiving definite guarantees of full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. We do not think that any Arab delegation will depart from pan-Arab consensus and participate in such talks, helping Israel to realize its purposes, especially nonimplementation of the international resolutions and refusal to exchange land for peace.

The Arabs have shown some coordination during the first stage of the negotiations, and it is very important that coordination continue at all levels before and during the upcoming stage. No doubt, the Syrian-Palestinian coordination, which is currently taking on a tangible practical dimension, is a source of satisfaction. The Palestine question is the essence of the conflict in the region, and Syria has repeatedly announced that this issue is its own, and the Arabs' central issue, and that Jerusalem comes before the Golan. On another level, Syrian-Lebanese and Syrian-Egyptian coordination continues with a view toward shaping a unified position from which the Arabs can wage the battle for peace with a common view, and reach the results they aspire to.

The unity of the Arab position is a guarantee for the victory of right and justice and the defeat of the enemy's policy and maneuvers to single out every Arab side individually. The Arabs are waging the battle for peace armed with the international resolutions, while Israel has nothing but malice, deception, and forgery. The Arabs should prevail in this major battle, and nothing can prevent this victory if they adhere to a unified position, a comprehensive view, and the need to implement international resolutions on all fronts of the conflict.

'Evidence' of Nature of Israeli Peace

JN0811153791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel has continued its attacks on villages and cities in southern Lebanon, and its warplanes have conducted savage raids on Palestinian camps and provocative sorties over Beirut.

Aggression is admittedly part of the inborn nature of the enemy. However, the current escalation coincides with the beginning of the Madrid conference. This escalation is expected to continue as long as the peace talks on the Middle East continue. This is because the Shamir government views peace as detrimental to its expansionist schemes and its Torah dream to set up a greater Israel.

This government was forced to participate in the Madrid conference under international pressure. When this government attended, represented by its head Yitzhaq Shamir, it sought to undermine the conference from within by ignoring its very foundations.

Shamir devoted two speeches at the conference to discussing the alleged Israeli land whose expanse includes all of Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. Shamir also attacked Syria in particular, cast doubt on the abilities of the Lebanese Government, and accused the Palestinian people of terrorism.

The Israeli prime minister, furthermore, sought to deliberately falsify historical and geographical facts and completely reversed roles by claiming that Arabs are aggressors while Zionists are victims of Arab expansionism.

Shamir did not say one word about Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which constitute the very foundation of the peace conference. Neither did he say one word about halting settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories or the possibility of withdrawing from these territories. Instead, he called on Arab delegations to make instantaneous peace on the basis of a fait accompli; that is, recognizing the legitimacy of Israeli occupation and not asking for restoration of any part of the usurped territories.

At the same time, Shamir instructed Israeli forces to step up their attacks on southern Lebanon, threatening a new invasion of the region in a bid to give evidence of the nature of peace he was talking about, the peace of the fait accompli, and to terrorize the Lebanese Government, make it stop urging the implementation of Security

Council Resolution 425, and detach it from the Syrian position that rejects relinquishing any Palestinian rights or the occupied territories.

As a matter of fact, isolating Syria from other Arab delegations was one of the major objectives sought by the Israeli negotiating delegation, given Syria's political and military weight and its important position on all major pan-Arab issues.

Israeli rulers believe that isolating Syria will enable them to meet with other Arab parties individually and drag them into partial settlements that would eventually consolidate the hegemony of occupation and cancel the claim on territories and the call for implementing UN resolutions.

Syria has made immense efforts, and is still making efforts, to face Israel with a unified Arab position and a unified vision of the desired just solution, which are both based on international resolutions.

In fact, the Damascus meeting of the five states bordering Israel made recommendations for continued consultations among Arab parties during the negotiations and not to succumb to any threat or respond to any Israeli temptation.

If the enemy government does not want peace and views it as destroying its expansionist schemes, and every day announces its intention to swallow up the occupied territories, then it is only natural that it does not want a real solution or a just settlement to the Arab-Zionist conflict and that it will do its utmost to sabotage the peace conference by seeking to create contradictions among Arab delegations and by working to create a climate of mistrust and doubts.

The peace conference will serve the Arab cause inasmuch as the participating Arab delegations will succeed in materializing the will of the Arab nation to restore the occupied territories and all Palestinian rights, and opposing the enemy's ambitions with one stance.

The peace conference will digress from its objectives if the enemy succeeds in fragmenting the Arab position, because this will eventually lead to fragmenting the pressuring international position and dropping the call for enforcing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Proceeding from the above, we say that the peace conference is a test to the Arabs and the unity of their position. Many developments depend on the results of this test.

Afghanistan

Reaction to Mojahedin Talks in Moscow

Soviets Agree to Interim Government

BK1811003291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1705 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has endorsed a mojahedin demand that power in Afghanistan be transferred to an interim Islamic government, according to a joint statement released by the Soviet Embassy here Sunday.

The eight-point joint statement was drawn up in Moscow after five days of talks between a mojahedin delegation and Soviet and Russian officials held from November 11 to 15.

The delegation, led by fundamentalist resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, is due to return here Monday after a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

"The (two) sides confirmed the necessity of transfer of the entire state power in Afghanistan to an interim Islamic government," the statement said, according to the text issued by the embassy.

The mojahedin delegation agreed, it said.

"Within two years from the moment of transfer of power from the Kabul regime to the interim government, general elections will be held in Afghanistan with the assistance of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the U.N.," the statement said.

The Soviet side agreed to "stop before January 1992 all supplies to the Kabul regime of armaments, combat hardware and fuel for combat means."

Moscow also agreed to "take measures for radical reduction and consequently for the complete recall from Afghanistan of Soviet military personnel."

The statement said the Soviet Union "will definitely participate in common efforts for the restoration of devastations caused by the war."

"A decision with regard to the validity of all treaties concluded between the Soviet Union and the (Kabul) government that enjoyed (Moscow's) support after 1978 and before the transfer of power to the interim Islamic government will be taken by the interim government," according to the statement.

"The condemnation of the anti-constitutional decision with regard to the deployment of Soviet troops in Afghanistan (in 1979) and the Soviet Union's participation in the war, that brought and continues to bring immeasureable sufferings to the Muslim Afghan people, was reconfirmed," it said.

The statement, which described the talks as "sincere and useful," also said both sides "agreed to do everything possible for the release of the prisoners of war."

"The mojahedin... will take measures to release the first batch of the Soviet POWs before January 1, 1992," the statement said.

"Necessary practical measures to solve the issue of the prisoners release will be taken by a joint commission," it added.

The text said a joint body would be established within a month to implement the provisions of the statement and conduct further talks.

In Kabul, the government released a statement heaving a sigh of relief that its worst fears had not come true at the talks.

The government of President Najibollah, which had stayed silent for two days, described the parleys as a "strong and realistic foundation" for the return of peace.

"The Republic of Afghanistan, believing firmly in the political settlement,... welcomes any dialogues and talks as a basic means for reaching a political settlement," the government said in a statement.

But here in Islamabad the leader of the influential Hezb-e Eslami resistance group denounced the talks, saying they would have "neither a positive nor negative impact" on the mojahedin because a "majority were opposed to the delegation's trip to Moscow."

Golbuddin Hekmatyar, who along with two radical leaders, boycotted the talks, said in a statement that he "was of the belief from the very beginning that the delegation would return from Moscow empty-handed."

Rebels Say Agreement 'Success'

BK1711064791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Afghan resistance representatives who negotiated in Moscow a comprehensive solution to the conflict in their country have described the talks as an important success, a mojahedin report said Sunday.

In reactions published Sunday in Pakistan by the resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency, delegates of the various mojahedin factions said they were "successful, valuable" talks.

At the November 10-15 negotiations, the mojahedin delegates insisted that Moscow agree to annul all treaties with the Kabul government since the treaties signed between the Soviets and the Kabul puppet regime since 1978 have been called illegal and against the wishes of the Afghan nation, said Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami faction.

The Soviet Union backed the communist coup d'etat in Kabul in 1978 and the following year invaded Afghanistan to defend the new government.

The current government in Kabul still receives economic and military assistance from Moscow, which withdrew its troops in 1989.

Resistance Moderates Hail Progress

BK1611080491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 16 (AFP)—Moderate Afghan resistance faction Saturday welcomed the outcome of talks in Moscow between Soviet and mojahedin leaders, which resulted in partial agreement on the release of Soviet prisoners of war.

"It's a good beginning," a spokesman for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) said of a joint statement drafted in Moscow after talks among mojahedin resistance leaders and Russian and Soviet officials.

The guerrilla leaders Friday agreed to release a first group of Soviet POWs captured during the Red Army's 1979-89 intervention in Afghanistan.

The visit provided the mojahedin an opportunity to establish contacts with Russian officials, which could herald "future cooperation" between the two sides, the NIFA spokesman said.

A Soviet Red Cross report said that of 300 Soviet troops missing in action (MIA) in Afghanistan, 50 were being held by the mojahedin.

Sources here say most of that number are in the custody of hardline groups, particularly that led by radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, who boycotted the Moscow talks. The pro-West NIFA said it would cooperate in releasing the captives.

"Of course they would like to have some deal" with the mojahedin and the Soviet negotiators, the spokesman said. Of the mojahedin demand for an Islamic government to replace the current Soviet-backed president, Najibollah, he said the resistance leaders went to Moscow "totally blank, without any expectations of an immediate breakthrough."

He added that the Soviets knew invading Afghanistan had been a mistake, which they would not repeat by interfering in Afghan affairs again.

Any future government is an internal issue and mojahedin leaders will finalise it through broad-based dialogue, he said.

Fundamentalist leaders gave no immediate reaction to the agreement, pending the delegation's return with details of the talks in Moscow.

Hekmatyar Denounces Outcome

BK1711142091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—A key radical Afghan rebel leader, Golboddin Hekmatyar, Sunday denounced the outcome of the visit to Moscow of a mojahedin delegation's visit to the Soviet Union, although other resistance groups hailed it as a victory.

"I was of the belief from the very beginning that the delegation would return from Moscow empty-handed," said Hekmatyar in a statement carried by the Afghan news agency.

The delegation which was led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, foreign minister in the Pakistan-based rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG), held talks in Moscow with Soviet and Russian officials. It is due to return here on Monday.

According to a joint statement, released here Sunday by the Soviet Embassy, the representatives of the Iran-based mojahedin also participated in the November 11-15 talks.

Hekmatyar said the outcome of the negotiations "has neither positive nor negative impact" on the mojahedin because a "majority of them were opposed to the delegation's trip to Moscow."

The fundamentalist resistance leader, who heads the Hezb-e Eslami faction, boycotted the Moscow talks along with 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf and Yunes Khales, two other radical leaders.

He said the visit confirmed his statement before the talks that the Soviet Union wanted the talks only to obtain the release of its prisoners of war captured during Moscow's 10-year presence in Afghanistan which ended in 1989.

As for a solution of the Afghan conflict, Moscow was seeking to impose a coalition of mojahedin and "the communists" in Kabul "in collusion with the United States," he said.

"The Afghan people will foil all such plots," he added.

Hekmatyar said he "feared" that Iran might send another mojahedin delegation to Moscow and "thus widen the gap between the mojahedin organizations, weakening their stand."

Government Issues Statement

LD1611175291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan—date and place not given]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, firmly believing in a political solution to the Afghanistan issue, welcomes all dialogue and talks as essential ways to achieve a political settlement among internal and external belligerents. It expresses the following opinion concerning the recent talks between a delegation of Afghan opposition figures and the authorities of the Soviet Union and the statement in this connection issued in Moscow on 15 November.

Irrespective of the details of the text, form, and words of the statement and the composition of the Afghan opposition delegation and their internal differences concerning the selection of the delegation head, as well as intervention in

this respect by Pakistani military circles, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of the central issue of the talks in Moscow regarding the release of Soviet prisoners of war and the agreement achieved in this regard, not only considers this to be a humanitarian step but has for its part continuously been making efforts in this respect, both in the past and at the present time.

As for the part of the statement pertaining to the question of a transitional period, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, parallel to its peace-seeking efforts and having endorsed the five-point statement of the UN secretary general, in particular Articles 3 and 4, as well as the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on Afghanistan, believes that these documents form a solid and realistic legal and political foundation, in line with the Islamic, national, and Afghan characteristics of our people, for the attainment of a comprehensive political solution which can be brought about by the commencement and continuation of an intra-Afghan dialogue. Only in this way can there be a comprehensive examination of the issues aimed at attaining a nationwide peace, the implementation of a cease-fire, and an end to the fighting, hostilities, and external intervention, so that the national interests of our people can be guaranteed.

In awaiting the results and implementation of the five-point statement of the UN secretary general and the joint Soviet-U.S. statement, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan once again expresses its all-round support for the start of dialogue and intra-Afghan talks. It regards this as a fundamental (?step) in achieving a comprehensive solution to the Afghanistan issue.

USSR Reportage on Afghan Peace Talks

WA1811132491

For USSR reportage on the visit to Moscow by the mojahedin delegation, including reports on its visits with RSFSR officials, see the International Affairs section of the 12 November and subsequent issues, and the RSFSR section of the 13 November and subsequent issues, of the Soviet DAILY REPORT.

Mojahedin Release Soviet POW in Jeddah 17 Nov

LD1811095191 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Peshawar-based Afghan Muslim mojahedin leaders released a Soviet prisoner of war (POW) as a sign of goodwill Sunday afternoon. The Soviet POW was set free in the Saudi city of Jeddah where the mojahedin leaders arrived following their talks with the Soviet officials in Moscow last week.

A mojahedin source told IRNA here Monday morning that the 27-year-old POW, Elham Uzbek, was handed over to his father and uncle in Jeddah and would later depart for his homeland, the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Uzbek said that he would propagate Islam in his country and would always remember kindness and sympathy of the Afghan mojahedin.

Mojahedin leaders earlier released a Soviet POW during the visit of a Soviet delegation to Islamabad on August 12. At the end of the meeting of the mojahedin and the Soviet Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow last Friday, the mojahedin pledged to release the first batch of the Soviet POWs by the end of 1991.

According to mojahedin sources, 20 Soviet POWs have been released since 1980.

Government Protests Pakistani Airspace Violations

LD1611181791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. The head of the First Political Department of that ministry handed him a protest note from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. The text of the note is as follows:

According to reliable information, on 4 November two helicopters of Pakistan's armed forces entered the Republic of Afghanistan from that country's territory and landed in Zurmat District [in Paktia Province]. The helicopters brought 13 Pakistani citizens to meet with the various Afghan opposition groups. The helicopters then returned to Pakistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests against such aggressive actions by the Government of Pakistan on the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. These actions openly and clearly contravene all accepted international norms and standards, particularly the Geneva accords, which that country itself is committed to implement. It calls on the Pakistani authorities to avoid any repetition of such aggression and interference in the future. Otherwise, the responsibility for the resulting grave consequences will rest with the Pakistani Government.

Government Bombs Rebel Positions Around Kabul

BK1511154291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Kabul regime forces last night resorted to bombing raids against suspected mojahedin locations around the capital. Military sources said in Kabul that the bombings were carried out after a report about mojahedin gathering around the capital. The sources said that areas in the southeast of Kabul were targeted and that several rockets were also fired.

The Kabul regime has further claimed that the security belt around Kabul has been expanded and that to a considerable extent the city has been made safe from bombardment by the mojahedin.

India

Reportage on Parliamentary Elections

Voting Peaceful Except in Bihar

BK1611092891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The polling is now on in the by-elections to 15 Lok Sabha and 56 assembly seats spread over 14 states. Reports received so far from various constituencies suggest that polling began on a dull note in most of the constituencies. However, at some places the voters strated queueing up before the polling booths much before the voting started. In Nandial Lok Sabha seat of Andhra Pradesh [contested by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao] the polling is reported dull in view of inclement weather. In Amethi constituency of Uttar Pradesh [vacant due to Rajiv Gandhi's death] tight security arrangements have been made to ensure free and fair polling. Very few voters have so far turned out in this Lok Sabha constituency.

In West Bengal 15 to 20 percent of voters exercised their franchise in the first three hours of polling in Purnia Lok Sabha constituency. In Madhya Pradesh peaceful polling has been reported from one parliamentary and five assembly constituencies. In Maharashtra the polling in two Lok Sabha and three assembly seats began at 0700 this morning. In Assam brisk polling has been reported from Badarpur assembly seat. Our Silchar correspondent reports heavy polling in several booths. Reports of incident-free polling have been received from Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Rajasthan.

In Bihar two persons were shot dead in Vaishali Assembly constituency where the polling is in progress. According to official sources in Patna, in separate incidents at Bhatoria and (Jarangrampur) villages, supporters of two political parties clashed in which two persons were killed. Another person suffered gunshot injuries at Mahuva in Madhepur parliamentary constituency. Reports of sporadic violence and snatching of ballot papers have also come in from different places in the state where by-elections are being held.

Congress-I Party Records Victories

BK1711094691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Congress-I has won the Oinam assembly seat in Manipur while the counting has been stayed in all the three parliamentary and 12 assembly constituencies in Bihar where by-elections were held yesterday. Counting in most of the 15 Lok Sabha and 56 assembly constituencies in 14 states, which began this morning, is in progress.

In Manipur, the Congress-I candidate, Mrs. K. Abami Devi, defeated her nearest Manipur People's Party candidate, Dr. Y. Jitend Singh, by a margin of 621 votes to retain the Oinam assembly seat for her party.

The election commission has directed the returning officers in Bihar not to begin counting, stop counting where started, and not declare results until full information is furnished to the commission for issue of necessary instructions. The commission has also said that a repoll may be needed in some booths in the Cuddapah parliamentary and Penamkonda assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Badarpur in Assam, and Hatta in Madhya Pradesh.

According to trends available, the Congress-I candidate, Captain Satish Sharma, is leading by over 6,000 votes over his nearest BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] rival, Mr. Madan Mohan Singh, in the Amethi parliamentary constituency.

In the Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chauhan of BJP is leading by 10,000 votes over his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Pratap Bhanu Sharma.

In the Dharwar South parliamentary constituency of Karnataka, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. B.A. Mujahid is leading by 18,100 votes over his nearest BJP rival, Mr. B.G. Balakar.

Mr. Doman Singh Nagpure, independent supported by BJP, has been elected from the (Khelanji) assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh.

In Orissa, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. K.P. Singh Dev, is leading over his nearest Janata Dal rival, Mr. Tathagath Satpati, in the (Bhenkanal) Lok Sabha constituency by over 10,000 votes.

In the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency in Maharashtra, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. Sharad Pawar, was leading by over 37,200 votes over his nearest rival, Dr. Mrs. Pratibhanu Khande, of the BJP at the end of the first round.

Congress-I Continues Gains

BK1711161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Excerpt] According to the latest trends available, the Congress-I is leading in seven of the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies for which counting was taken up today. Counting in three Lok Sabha constituencies where by-elections have been held in Bihar has been withheld. Counting in Karappa Lok Sabha constituency could not be taken up as repoll was ordered in 31 booths today.

The Congress-I is leading in Nandyal, Baramati, Amethi, Dhenkanal, Kutch, Dharwar South, and Nander Lok Sabha constituencies. The BJP is leading in Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh and Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh. The Forward Bloc supported by the left front is leading in the lone Lok Sabha seat for which election has been held in West Bengal. In Etawa, Uttar Pradesh, the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] chief, Mr. Kashi Ram, was leading over his BJP rival by a slender margin when reports last came in.

In Nandyal, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is leading over his nearest BJP rival by over 568,000 votes. In Baramati, Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar is leading over his nearest BJP rival by over 330,000 votes. In Dhenkanal, Orissa, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. K.P. Singh Dev, is leading over the Janata Dal candidate by over 24,000 votes. In Kutch, Gujarat, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. Harilal Patel, is leading over his BJP rival, Mr. Babu Lal Shah, by over 20,000 votes. In Karnataka, Dharwar South constituency, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. B.M. Mujahid, is leading over his BJP rival, Mr. B.G. Balakar, by 36,000 votes. In Amethi, Captain Satish Sharma is leading over his BJP rival by over 40,000 votes. In Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, the BJP candidate, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chauhan, is leading over his nearest Congress-I rival by over 77,000 votes. In Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, also the BJP candidate is leading. [passage omitted]

Prime, Defense Ministers Reelected

BK1811014691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, have been declared elected to Lok Sabha. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has won the Nandyal Lok Sabha seat in Andhra Pradesh. He defeated his nearest BJP rival, Mr. Bangru Lakshman, by a margin of more than 580,000 votes, creating a world record of largest victory margin.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has won the Baramati Lok Sabha seat from Maharashtra. He defeated his nearest BJP rival, Dr. Mrs. Pratibhanu Khande, by a margin of over 450,000 votes. A former union minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Dev, has won the Dhenkanal Lok Sabha seat from Orissa, while Mr. B.M. Mujahid of Congress-I has won Dharwar South Lok Sabha seat from Karnataka. In Madhya Pradesh, the Vidisha Lok Sabha seat has been won by Mr. Shivraj Singh Chauhan of BJP by a margin of 90,000 votes. Mr. Pratap Bhan Sharma was the Congress-I candidate for this seat.

Out of six Loka Sabha results declared so far, five have gone to Congress-I and and one to BJP. Counting is in progress for Amethi, Bulandshahr, Etawa Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh; Nander Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra, Purulia in West Bengal, and Karappa in Andhra Pradesh. As reported, the counting for Barh, Madhepura, and Gaya Lako Sabha constituencies in Bihar has been withheld by the election commission.

In the assembly elections, 26 results have been declared so far of 56 seats for which elections were held. In Bihar, the first result of Sikta assembly seat has gone in favor of an independent candidate, Mr. Dilip Verma. Mr. Verma defeated his nearest Janata Dal rival, Mr. Salahuddin, by a margin of 8,246 votes. The other 21 candidates, including those of Congress-I and BJP, lost their security deposits. The counting is in progress for Ghatsila, Latihar, Saraikila, Jharia, and Kulhani assembly constituencies in the state. Election Commission allowed the resumption of counting of votes in these constituencies last night. The counting of votes in other six assembly constituencies continued to be withheld.

In Orissa, all the three assembly seats have gone to Janata Dal candidates, while in Mahrashtra the result of Baramati and Kasbapet assembly seats have gone in favor of Congress-I candidates. The Chirhat assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh has been won by Mr. Ajay Singh of Congress-I by a margin of 3,500 votes, while the Hansur assembly seat in Karnataka has also been won by Congress-I. Congress-I candidate Mr. S. Chikkamadu won the seat by a margin of 3,932 votes.

In Uttar Pradesh, out of the four assembly results declared so far Janata Dal has won two, while one seat each have gone in favor of BJP and the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party]. The Bhognipur assembly seat has been won by Janata Dal candidate Mr. Piyarelal Shankhwal. He defeated his nearest BJP rival by a margin of 843 votes.

In Gujarat, Gothra and Amreli seats have gone in favor of BJP. In Rajasthan, the ruling BJP has suffered in the assembly by-elections. Of the four assembly seats for which elections were held, Congress-I has won two, while BJP and independent have won one each seat.

The latest party position in the Lok Sabha by-elections is like this: total number of seats, 16; elections held, 15; results declared, six; Congress-I, five; BJP, one.

The party position in the assembly by-elections is like this: elections held for 56 seats; results declared, 26; Congress-I, 11; BJP, five; Janata Dal, five; others, five.

10 Lok Sabha, 37 Assembly Seats Decided

BK1811072491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] In the by-elections for 15 Lok Sabha and 56 assembly seats the results of 10 Lok Sabha and 37 assembly constituencies have come in. The Congress-I strength in the Lok Sabha has gone up by seven so far. The BJP has won two and the Forward Bloc one Lok Sabha seat. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, have recorded landslide victories. Out of the five results yet to come in, the counting for three Lok Sabha seats in Bihar has been withheld. In Karappa, of Andhra Pradesh, repolling was held in some polling stations yesterday. In Etawa Lok Sabha constituency of Uttar Pradesh, the Bahujan Samaj Party president, Mr. Kashi Ram, is leading over his nearest BJP rival when last came in.

In the by-elections to 56 assembly constituencies, 37 results have come in from different states. The BJP has bagged 12 seats; the Congress-I 11; the Janata Dal five; the Samajwadi Janata Party three; the CPI [Communist Party of India] one; and independent and others five seats. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and the

SJP president, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has been declared elected from Tilhar assembly seat. He defeated his Congress-I rival by a margin of over 10,000 votes.

Among the Lok Sabha seats, both the constituencies in Maharashtra have gone in favor of the Congress-I. In Uttar Pradesh, out of the two seats for which results are available, the Congress-I and the BJP has shared one each. While the Congress-I was victorious in Amethi, the BJP candidate has been declared elected in Bulandshahr Lok Sabha seat. The Bulandshahr assembly seat has gone in favor of the SJP. The party's candidate, Mr. Dharampal Yadav, defeated his nearest BJP rival by a margin of over 11,000 votes.

The Harai assembly seat has been won by the BJP. Its candidate defeated his nearest Janata Dal rival by a margin of 10,000 votes. In Bihar, Mr. Chompai Suren, independent, has won the Seraikera reserved seat, defeating his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Bikuram Majhi, by a margin of about 5,000 votes.

Three assembly results have been declared so far in the state. One has gone in favor of [word indistinct] and two to independents.

Punjab BJP Vice President Wounded in Bomb Blast

BK1511155691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] In Punjab, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Dr. Baldev Prakash, was seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast in Amritsar this evening. The blast occurred at 1915 when Dr. Baldev Prakash was returning to his residence from his clinic. He has been admitted to hospital.

At least four persons, including the driver of the car and one security personnel, died on the spot. After visiting the spot, our Amritsar correspondent understands that the possibility of the bomb being set off by remote control cannot be ruled out.

Arrested Sikh Leader Mann Released 17 Nov

BK1711074891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, who was arrested near Udhampur yesterday, has been released. He has since left for Punjab. Mr. Mann and two other party leaders were arrested for violating prohibitory orders on their way to the Kashmir Valley.

Prime Minister on 'Sick' Public Sector Units

BK1711080891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that the future of the sick public sector units will be decided on the basis of a consensus after wide consultations. He was addressing the parliamentary consultative committee attached to the Ministry of Labor in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Rao said that the concerned authorities have been directed to put before him all the facts relating to the loss-incurring public sector units. The prime minister said efforts will be made to revive the sick public sector units. He said that the government will maintain openness in regard to such units.

Reassuring the MP's that the new industrial policy will not lead to any human distress, the prime minister urged the labor leaders to withdraw their call for strike on the 29th of this month in protest against the changes proposed in the new policy.

Bank Relaxes Rules for Capital Goods Imports

BK1611091391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has relaxed the regulations for import of capital goods by export-oriented units. According to a press release issued by RBI in Bombay, the importers of capital goods up to the value of 50 lakh rupees will now be able to import against free foreign exchange. Import of capital goods up to the value of 1 crore rupees will be also be allowed if the importers are able to arrange suppliers' credit for 360 days.

Commentary on USSR Ties, Solanki Moscow Visit

BK1611084891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Uma Shankar Phadnis commentary]

[Text] The visit of the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, to Moscow and his talks with leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia have apparently been planned with two objectives in view. The first is to help Mr. Solanki to obtain political insight into the new configuration of the state system which has begun to emerge in what was the Soviet Union; secondly, to provide him with an assessment of the new leadership's foreign policy perspectives so that Indo-Soviet relations could be shaped to benefit both countries, which has been the guiding principle of the ties between them.

On all accounts, it appears that in conducting the country's foreign relations, Moscow will need to take into its stride the compulsions which arise from the fact that the republics have assumed to themselves the prerogative of establishing their own relations with foreign countries. Given the ethnic diversity which marks the demographic structure of different republics, Moscow's responses to the foreign policy issues would necessarily come under strain and the leadership would have to synthesize pulls in different directions.

There is yet another consideration which will weigh with Moscow. This relates to foreign economic relations. Here again a great deal of diversity marks the new state structure. There is, for instance, the Russian Federation, which is the most infrastructurally developed; and the

other republics, some of which have neither the resources of the Russian Federation nor the infrastructure to exploit the natural resources they possess. Under the circumstances, the quest of such republics would naturally be to establish relations with such countries as would be in a position to benefit them most. In these complex circumstances, it would be necessary for Mr. Solanki to acquaint himself with the nature of the nexus which is being thought of in the new system and the measure and nature of coordination between the different republics being sought to be brought about. Only then can India evolve a coherent and comprehensive approach to the new state system.

In the context of the approaches to international issues, too, the Soviet leadership and India have to make a reappraisal. This was amply demonstrated when Moscow—for the first time in the time-tested relationship between the two countries—voted against India in the Political Committee of the UN General Assembly. Hitherto the Soviet Union was following a policy of abstaining on the issue of the Pakistani proposal for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. Explaining the divergence between the Indian and the Soviet positions, a spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs maintained that the Soviets are looking at it from the point of view of their interest. We are looking at it from the point of view of our national interest. It would be necessary for Mr. Solanki to find out how a harmonization of the two positions could be brought about if Indo-Soviet ties have to be shaped in future on the basis of common interests.

Iran

Group Claims Responsibility for Lockerbie Crash

LD1611110391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] An organization called the Revolutionary Arab Brigade Organization [Sazman-e Brigad-e Enqelabi Arabi] has accepted responsibility for the crash of the Pan Am flight over Scotland.

In a statement published today, the organisation rejected American claims concerning Libyan involvement in that incident as baseless. The statement stressed that those allegations are within the framework of a Western preprogramed plot aimed at compromising the countries of the Arab steadfast front.

The statement, which is a document announcing the existence of the Revolutionary Arab Brigade Organization, reiterates: Based on reliable information held by the organization, America is on the verge of implementing retaliatory plans against Libya.

Reaction to U.S.-UK Charges on Lockerbie Crash

Hizballah Statement on U.S. 'Threats'

LD1611175891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The revolutionary movement of the Lebanese Hizballah has attributed the recent U.S. threats against Libya to U.S. efforts to gain control over the oil of the Arab world and Islamic regions. The movement issued a statement today in which it stressed the following: The U.S. threats against Libya and George Bush's remarks at the Madrid conference reveal its colonialist plans to gain control over oil resources, especially the oil resources of the Libyan desert. The statement continues by asking Muslim nations to stand up to U.S. conspiracies and not to allow the United States to turn Libya into an arena for its aggressions ['arse-ye takht-o-taz].

Yazdi Warns Against U.S. Action

LD1811171791 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said here Monday that no one country is, or should be, allowed to take hostile action against any other country in response to allegedly terrorist operations, in a manner inconsistent with international laws.

He said the United States has accused Libya of having been behind the reported bomb blast in a Pan American plane flying over Scotland in 1988, and is trying to get the backing of its western allies in a concerted military adventurism against Libya.

The head of the judiciary who was talking to a group of justices repeated that Iran is against any terrorist operation of any nature and description, on any ground and for any purpose.

Earlier on Sunday, the Speaker of the Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, condemned the U.S. for sending challenges to Libya, and called for an immediate query into the crash-case by international neutral commissions.

It is America which should stand trial, he said, for its criminal missiling down of an Iranian passenger plane on July 3, 1988, in the Persian Gulf waters, which killed all 290 passengers on board.

A Pan Am jumbo disintegrated in the air while flying over Scotland in December 1988 killing all 270 passengers and crew members aboard. The cause of the crash, as the Americans and the British allege was a bomb explosion.

Editorial Sees U.S.-UK 'Conspiracy'

LD1611112991 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—A morning daily here Saturday blamed Washington for masterminding a "new world disorder" despite its claims of having strived for establishment of a new world order.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editorialized on a fresh joint U.S.-Britain conspiracy accusing Libya of involvement in the crash of a "Pan Am" passenger plane over Scotland three yeas ago.

"This is not a mere threat but the beginning of a dangerous scheme through which Washington seeks to secure itself the right to embark on any action against any country without facing any protest from outside," notes the article.

U.S. intervention in Grenada, Malta, the Persian Gulf and in northern Iraq and its missile attack on an Iranian passenger plane on July 3, 1988, as well as its recent claim through which it aims to launch a military attack on Libya, are all parts of the unjustified policies of the White House, it added.

"In fact", the daily noted, "by resoting to such acts, the U.S. is laying the foundation for some sort of anarchy in international relations to which the world community cannot remain indifferent."

If to U.S. Administration massacre of defenceless passengers is a crime, definitely Washington should have been convicted and punished as the murderer of some 300 Iranian passengers who were on a flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubayy, the daily said.

"The U.S. Administration itself is the source of tension and disorder in the world and, therefore, prior to any action it is best to punish the U.S. President and Pentagon and CIA senior officials for their repeated crimes across the world," concluded the daily.

Commentary on Anti-Libyan 'Propaganda'

LD1611124391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1108 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The renewed discussion about the explosion on board the Pan Am aircraft in the winter of 1988, causing the death of over 270 people, most of them members of the U.S. armed forces, has raised many questions in political circles.

Different countries have been blamed for their involvement during the three years since the explosion. But each time the issue was raised, it was allowed to subside after a few days.

Libya has now become the target of propaganda attacks as the perpetrator of the bombing a number of years since the event. This causes many political observers to ponder the motives for this. The point which raises political experts' concern is the connection which can be seen between the prevailing situation in the region and the latest propaganda hue and cry. Libya was one of the countries that voiced its opposition to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid. Libya adopts such a stance at a time when a number of regional countries have shown flexibility regarding current developments, or somehow have aligned themselves with such developments.

Libya's stance, which takes the form of a special position for that country among other countries of the region in the existing vacuum, is one of the reasons for the recent propaganda attacks against it. Political experts believe the raising of Libya's involvement in the downing of the Pan Am aircraft three years after the event is a propaganda ploy to put pressure on Libya to change its existing positions.

Commentary on U.S. 'Psychological War'

NC1611193991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 1691

[Station political commentary]

[Text] The charges the United States leveled against two Libyan citizens on their involvement in the explosion of the Pan Am aircraft in the Scottish sky three years ago reflect the start of a new psychological and propaganda war by Washington against Libya. It is a war marked by particular sensitivity and importance in light of the current delicate circumstances.

An official statement issued by the Libyan Foreign Ministry [as heard] denied these charges altogether. The statement called for opening an investigation into this matter through the International Court of Justice or similar international organization. In the first reaction to the Libyan denial, the White House spokesman dismissed the above-mentioned Libyan proposals on the grounds that the International Court of Justice at The Hague lacked the necessary jurisdiction to investigate the U.S. charges. The White House official spokesman added that the United States will never disregard its right to respond to Libya, despite the fact that U.S. interests require that any response be coordinated with the United States' allies.

As it clearly appears from the general framework of the U.S. response and reactions and from the way the charges were made, Washington actually does not seek to investigate the reasons and factors behind this incident through legal procedures and practices. The latest U.S. stand toward Libya is part of a specific U.S. policy against countries and policies that are not in harmony with U.S. foreign policy. As usual, Britain sided with the United States by focusing attention on this incident in order to step up the psychological pressure and therefore achieve U.S. objectives.

It has been three years since the Pan Am aircraft exploded over Scotland. Despite this long period, the United States did not reveal the details about how and why this incident took place, thus confirming the prevailing belief that the United States kept the issue as a means of pressure to serve U.S. interests and foreign policy. The story of the countries blacklisted by the United States because their policies do not conform with U.S. foreign policy and the charges of terrorism leveled against these countries reflect another side of the U.S. policy that is against the countries opposed to its colonialist policies. The funny thing here is that the U.S.-proposed new world order—which is primarily, even in an external way, based on noninterference in other countries' affairs and on emphasizing the role of the international organization—fully contradicts with the recent U.S. stand on the Libyan proposals. The U.S. stand deemed the International Court of Justice as unqualified and lacking the necessary jurisdiction. Is Washington the international authority entitled to determine the jurisdiction of an internationally recognized court such as the one in The Hague?

At any rate, the whole thing is nothing more than the creation of a new psychological war against Libya. There is nothing new here, but the danger this time is that the United States is seeking to confirm a new premise—that the interests of the United States determine the degree and range of the jurisdiction of the international quarters and institutions. Under this premise, it seems clear to everyone that the region is approaching some serious events. The Gulf war experience has proven to everyone to what extent the international quarters and institutions are influenced by U.S. inclinations and goals. The United States might repeat the same experience once more using the same style; that is, by getting its allies to participate in a new conspiracy that seeks to make new gains for Washington and the White House.

Paper Says Tehran Seeking Nuclear Capability

TA1511164491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-'ALAM, which is an Arab newspaper appearing in London, has reported that an Iranian deputy president confirmed that his country is making efforts to produce an atomic bomb. 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, the deputy president for legal and parliamentary affairs, said that not only Iran but all the Muslims must achieve nuclear capability in order to compete with Israel's capability. He asserted that Pakistan had become a nuclear power after decades of activity in this field.

The Arab weekly AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI this morning reported that Washington had proof that Iran was gathering equipment to produce nuclear weapons.

President Condemns U.S. Stand on Nuclear Policy

LD1711094191 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here Sunday condemned the U.S. Administration for forcing various countries to refrain from any form of nuclear cooperation for non-military purposes with the Islamic Republic.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of Air Force pilots, President Rafsanjani referred to big powers as "monopolizing and impudent countries."

"America has frankly and boldly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no right to use nuclear technology even for non-military goals," he said adding that Iran is a signatory of the non-proliferation treaty.

The president added that big powers in order to attain their unjustified goals are openly pressing and threatening countries such as China and India.

As for pressure exerted by foreign powers on Iran to block the avenues for promotion of Iran's constructive cooperation with various world countries, he stressed: "Under the present world conditions reliance of the Iranian nation on its own potential capabilities is a must."

Majles Deputy Urges Anti-U.S. Actions

LD1711175991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Speech by Deputy Asghar Noruzi from Damavand to the Majles session in Tehran—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] America has started and actually implemented its planned onslaught [words indistinct] against the Islamic Republic of Iran despite the victory of the Islamic revolution, the humiliation of the Great Satan by the risen Islamic ummah, and the serious threats to her arrogant interests by revolutionary Muslims. Taking into account the status America has acquired following the Persian Gulf war as well as the elimination of the Soviet Union from the international scene, she actually considers herself the undisputed ruler of the world.

There is no doubt that in the future, in order to destroy the only serious and threatening focus of struggle against the new order in the short term, she will actually come to the Islamic Republic, using pretexts such as the current one regarding the existence of a nuclear production plan in Iran, or the official objection by the occupying regime of Qods [Israel] to the United Nations regarding the decisive message and stances of the exalted leadership and the respected president, which are based on the UN charter, or others. Or she may use provocations such as the confiscation of our country's assets. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to begin the urgent training and organization of Hizballah resistance and martyrdom-seeking cells across the world and to speedily provide their requirements so that the Hizballah can threaten all American interests and not allow her to rest during this Godly time of the Basijis [the mobilized ones], considering the orders of the imam [Khomeyni] and the exalted leadership, and in order to avoid falling into the American-imposed political dead end in the world. Death to America; death to Israel.

Mobilization Against Cultural 'Onslaught' Urged

LD1511121691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] This week's Tehran Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani. In the prayers sermons, the acting Friday imam of Tehran referred to the cultural and propaganda onslaught by world arrogance against the world of Islam, and America's conspiracies to weaken Islamic countries and strengthen the regime occupying Jerusalem. He stressed the necessity for Muslims to unite and mobilize against evil propaganda of this kind.

Asserting that Iran is the focal point of the Islamic world today, and that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, is the leader of the Islamic world, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the daily increasing growth of the Islamic revolution. He said: The Western world is frightened of the expansion and influence of the Islamic revolution among the deprived nations of the world. It is hatching various kinds of plots, from a cultural onslaught to the strengthening and arming of the usurper Zionist regime. The hardheaded enemy of Islam and the Muslims is trying to annihilate this expansion.

He stressed the necessity for unity, sympathy, and cohesion throughout the organs of society and its various strata, in order to achieve economic and scientific independence, and he emphasized the importance of cultural growth within universities in order to combat the Western cultural onslaught. He also pointed to the heavy responsibility of educationalists, and religious seminaries in particular, in the present situation.

Finally, speaking of the anniversary of the passing of 'Allamah Tabataba'i, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani described that scholar as an outstanding cultural figure. He urged pupils and seminary students to seek knowledge with sincerity and love, just as he did.

Karrubi Seeks Investigation of 1988 Airbus Downing

LD1711143891 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi on Sunday called for an investigation into the downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf by the United States' Navy on July 3, 1988.

He said an "impartial international court" should be set up to bring America to justice for its crime of missiling down the regular Dubayy-bound Iran Air flight moments after take-off from Bandar-e-Abbas.

Speaking at an open session of the Majles, Karrubi also blasted Washington for accusing Libya of involvement in the reported crash of a U.S. airplane carrying American servicemen, over Scotland in December 1988.

All 290 passengers and crew aboard the Iranian aircraft were martyred when it exploded in midair after being hit by two missiles fired from the U.S. frigate 'Vincennes'.

Washington gave conflicting statements over its dastardly crime, and later tried to claim that the USS Vincennes, which was equipped with the most sophisticated electronic equipment, had mistaken the large bodied aircraft for a tiny fighter plane.

Karrubi condemning Washington's state terrorism, said the U.S. was plotting to launch aggression against countries in which the spirit of freedom exists under pretext of defending human rights and fighting terrorism.

"Nowadays we are hearing extensive anti-Libya propaganda by the U.S. which accuses it (Tripoli) of involvement in the crashing of an American airplane," said the speaker, and questioned American credentials.

He said the issue of the reported crash over Scotland "should in fact be clarified by impartial courts."

Tehran To Unilaterally Release 400 Iraqi POWs

LD1611075691 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran's U.N. Envoy Kamal Kharrazi told U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar in a meeting here Friday that Tehran unilaterally will release 400 Iraqi war prisoners soon.

After the meeting Kharrazi told IRNA that he discussed with the U.N. secretary general issues related to implementation of the remaining articles of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which arbitrated peace between Iraq and Iran in 1988.

De Cuellar was told that Iran in a move to prove her good intention will soon release 400 Iraqi POWs still held in Iran and hopes that Iraq will reciprocate the move, he said.

According to Kharrazi, the U.N. chief promised to follow up the issue and discuss it with the Iraqi U.N. envoy.

Support for Moscow-Afghan Mojahedin Statement

LD1711110191 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iran supports the last Friday joint statement by the Soviet Union and the

Afghan mojahedin based in Iran and Pakistan, said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi here Sunday.

In the joint statement issued in Moscow following the meeting between a delegation of the mojahedin and the Soviet Foreign Ministry officials, the mojahedin pledged to release the first group of the Soviet prisoners of war by the end of 1991.

Speaking to IRNA, Sarmadi said Iran has launched large-scale efforts to settle the Afghan issue. He added that the Afghan mojahedin should take the opportunity to settle the problem which he said is also a problem of the Muslim world. Therefore, from the perspective of the Islamic Republic the Moscow statement is "an effective step forward," Sarmadi told IRNA.

He stressed that Iran will continue to give full support to any future step taken for the establishment of an Islamic, independent and non-aligened government in Afghanistan.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman the United Nations secretary general's efforts in settlement of the Afghan crisis is a must.